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Serving New Jersey's African-American communities since 1983

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NEWS BRIEFS

Support grows for state child protection laws

— TRENTON — Senator Wynona Lipman take her place among the growing number of legislators seeking to put child protection laws in the state of New Jersey.

Lipman, (D-Essex) along with Senators Joseph Vitale (D-Middlesex) and John Lipman Bennett, III, (2-Monmouth) to introduce Senate Bill S-1349, which would make it a crime to witness a crime involving bodily injury without reporting the crime. This development in the well-known tragedy of Sherrie Iveron is focused on preventing non-actions like those of David Cash, Jr., a friend of the murderer who witnessed the crime but did nothing to prevent it and did not report it.

Man pleads guilty to hate crimes

MOUNT HOLLY (AP) — A 22-year-old Columbus man pleaded guilty Thursday to involvement in a string of racist pranks across Burlington County over a two-year period.

Hilary Gierman was one of 11 students charged with carving a noxious swastika, making prank phone calls, painting the letters "KKK" outside a black family's home, and pelting two Asian Indian gas station attendants with eggs.

E.O. Reverse bias suit settled

EAST ORANGE — Just before attorneys presented summaries of their cases, the city of East Orange has settled the reverse racism lawsuit brought by Acting Police Chief Richard Wright.

Wright, who was East Orange Police Captain when he initiated the case in 1994, brought action against the city after being denied promotion to the position of chief even though he was declared by the state's civil service office to be the number one candidate for the position. "This is not about money," he said. "It's about right and wrong."

Waters statement on impeachment

WASHINGTON — In her statement to the House Judiciary Committee Inquiry on the Impeachment of President Clinton, Congresswoman Maxine Waters made the following comment on nature of impeachment.

"What the Republicans are doing is undermining the process. Other than declaring war, impeachment is the most serious decision for Congress to make...impeachment should be reserved for treason, bribery, and high crimes and misdemeanors, where a President's actions are 'great and dangerous offenses' or the president 'attempts to subvert the Constitution.'"

NAACP's Mfume arrested at supreme court

1000 demonstrators demand increase in minority clerks 18 arrested with civil rights head

BALTIMORE — NAACP President and CEO Kwame Mfume and 18 other activists were arrested during a mass demonstration to protest the "shameful and hypocritical record" of the Supreme Court Justices in hiring minority clerks. The protest was held recently in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

President Mfume attempted to deliver resumes of qualified minority law school graduates to the Justices by crossing the police barricade and proceeding up the court steps. Mfume and the others peacefully surrendered to officers for arrest as a crowd of 1000 spanning all ages and ethnic backgrounds chanted "No justice, no peace."

Rep. Gregory Meeks of New York, Archbishop C. Augustus

York, S.J., first vice president of the National Congress of American Indians, Rev. Dr. Staccato Powell, associate general secretary of the National Council of Churches, Blacks in Government national president Oscar Eason and C. Delores Tucker, past president of the National Political Congress of Black Women joined Mfume in the civil disobedience.

NAACP Board of Directors arrested during the protest included Richard Burton, and Rev. Marjorie Shearin. NAACP Special Contribution Fund Board of Trustees Clayola Brown were among those arrested.

Mfume said, "the fact that the nine justices who sit on the highest court in the land do not practice equal opportunity exposes a great deal of hypocrisy."

The rally coincided with the opening day of the court's 1998-1999 session. It marked the second year in a row no African Americans were hired as clerks. The current justices have hired only seven blacks out of a total of 429 clerks. Also, only one percent hired were Latino, four percent Asian and only one-fourth of the clerks hired were women. Furthermore in the 200 year history of the Supreme Court, no Native Americans have ever received a clerkship.

"Supreme Court law clerks wield a great amount of power by having the ear of the Justices. The clerks' influence on both the cases



Kwame Mfume was arrested during a demonstration at the Supreme Court.

heard and the opinions written by the court is tremendous and can not be underestimated as we review the recent decision by this activist court that has narrowed opportunity for people of color, affirmative action and the Voting Rights Act," said Mfume.

A cross section of national organizations representing labor, religious, legal and advocacy groups participated in the demonstration. Those arrested were charged with violating Title 40 of the United States Code — unlawful entry on the grounds of the Supreme Court. They pleaded guilty before a judge at D.C. Superior Court who suspended sentencing, ordered no probation but issued each a \$50 fine that was paid and goes to support the DC Victim's Rights Fund.

Janet ropes Jersey



Janet Jackson spent the day with a group of young people from the Boys and Girls Club in Newark as part of the preparation for her "Velvet Rope" show. Photos by Bill Jones

By Gilda Rogers
Contributing Writer
EAST RUTHERFORD — She's a lady of her word that is superstar Janet Jackson, whose swank Velvet Rope Tour rolled into Continental Airlines Arena on October 6 for the first of two area appearances.



Janet Jackson considers moves during rehearsal

Keeping in tune with the commitment she made to America's Promise, a portion of her concert proceeds from the Jackson world wide tour goes to help support the youth alliance spearheaded by General Colin Powell for at-risk children.

Reaching into the community of Newark, Jackson invited 20 youth from that city's Boys and Girls Club to be her guest for an afternoon of sound checks and

preparation leading up to a theatrical night of entertainment. Indeed, the kids were in for a treat — a show-stopping concert expounding to the truth power.

"I will never forget this day for the rest of my life," said Hector Figueroa, 16. "She's very beautiful and talented. What she has done for the Boys and Girls Club was very nice."

One of Jackson, the group of 13-15 year olds were given an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of what it takes to pull off a production of the Velvet Rope magnitude — time, hard work, efficiency and, of course, the incomparable Jackson herself.

"This is a golden opportunity for them," said Cynthia Banks,

deputy director of operations for the Boys and Girls Club. "They're getting a chance of a lifetime to see what it takes to do these things and how to attain goals."

After individually greeting the children there on stage, Jackson along with seven of her dancers worked on a dance number to be performed that night. Making sure they had each move down pat, Jackson, sporting and four-inch platform shoes, conferred with a few dancers and took the number from the top. Naturally finding the groove, the number went smooth this time around.

The tour moved to Madison Square Garden on October 11, when it aired live on HBO from 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Whitman best for black Jerseyans



Governor Christie Whitman

WOODBURGE (AP) — Five years ago, her top campaign consultant angered blacks by claiming — and later denying — he paid off black ministers to keep the voter turnout low in traditionally Democratic urban areas.

But since that time, Gov. Whitman said Friday, she's been one of the best governors black New Jerseyans have ever had.

In a speech to the Black Issues Leadership Conference in Iselin, Whitman said she has delivered for blacks on issues they care most about: reducing violent crime, ending childhood sexual abuse, reducing poverty for children, and hiring minorities to work in state government.

The governor also said she remains committed to affirmative action.

Whitman urged blacks to cast their votes "out of conviction, not out of habit."

"I would be willing to attack my record against that of any previous governor on the issues that matter to African Americans and to all members of the New Jersey family, from fighting crime to providing child care to creating jobs," she said. "I'm not even running for office."

Whitman said violent crime in New Jersey from 1989 to 1993 — former Gov. Jim Florio's term — by just over one percent. But since she has been in office, it has fallen more than 18 percent.

She cited a recent report by the National Center for Children in Poverty that showed the number of young children in poverty nationwide is up 12 percent this year, but down 25 percent in New Jersey.

In 1992, Whitman said, the number of ages-appropriately immunized 2-year-olds was about 50 percent. Now, she said, it is 78 percent, and the state is shooting for 90 percent by the year 2000.

On the issue of minority hiring, Whitman said her administration chose minority candidates for 44 percent of new hirings. She said that's a state-wide figure, but that's the highest level of minorities ever at 34.5 percent.

Klagholz's administrative style questioned

By Nancy Parella
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON (AP) — On a late Friday afternoon this summer, far machines in superintendent's offices around the state spit out an edict from Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz.

The 21-page document spelled out exactly how poor, mostly urban schools were to implement substantial changes to meet a state Supreme Court order.

No advance warning. No discussions. Just a fax.

Typical Leo, some said. In the halls of the Statehouse, legislators reportedly pressed lobbyists for information about Klagholz's plans for resolving the billion-dollar school construction problem. Nobody knew. Then Klagholz issued "facility standards" saying schools didn't need music or art rooms.

Typical Leo, some said.

ed to growing discord over other plans, passing resolutions aimed at squashing Klagholz's proposed school choice program and a new funding formula for some special education students.

They also reactivated the Joint Committee on Public Schools, dormant for years, to watch over key education issues. Both moves, some say, were spurred by Klagholz's style. The commissioner is known for issuing policies with little input from the school officials who have to make those policies work. And that creates conflict, making it difficult to mobilize support for new programs that could help students learn, critics say.

Klagholz also has been accused of overstepping his legal authority by creating programs such as school choice that lawmakers say they never authorized.

Sen. Robert Martin, R-Morris, chair of the Senate Education Committee, observed during a hearing last week that edu-

cators have developed a "fundamental distrust" of the education department.

Klagholz refused to talk about his relationship with school officials, education groups and legislators.

Spokesman Peter Peretzman denied any problems. "We have always made it a point to include those three groups on all issues and to seek their input," said Peretzman. "We try to have a good working relationship with them."

So why the conflict? "Only they can answer that," Peretzman said.

Their answers paint the picture of a commissioner determined to restructure public education with little regard for how policies will be received.

"He has a vision," said Robert Boose, executive director of the New Jersey School Boards Association, which represents districts around the state. "And he has people around him that he

makes help carry out his vision."

The conflict comes at a critical time.

The charter schools movement is growing and changing the way some districts are receiving state aid. A total overhaul of urban schools is just getting under way. And the state needs to find a way to rebuild New Jersey's crumbling schools — a project expected to cost billions.

It's a time when Klagholz needs cooperation from lawmakers and education groups to meet make real changes. Instead, he has lawmakers nipping at his heels and educators viewing nearly every proposal with suspicion.

Assemblyman Richard Bagger (R-Union), said Klagholz's vision is too simple. He assumes every public school in the state need "shaking up" and ignores the fact that New Jersey has some really good schools where "there's nothing that needs shaking," Bagger said.

Sorority member awarded for community service

*Investors' 24-Hour ATM Location

NATION/WORLD BRIEFS

ISLAND FAMILY SUES OVER YEARBOOK PICTURE

HONOLULU (AP) — The state is being sued by a family that was upset about what they call an offensive photograph that was featured in the 1998 Castle High School yearbook. Castle graduate Selma Boyce and her parents filed a lawsuit Friday saying state officials "intentionally harassed and discriminated" against them on the basis of race by running a picture of a student in Ku Klux Klan outfit. The family is African American.

The lawsuit also charged Department of Education officials failed to take appropriate remedial measures after the boy made racial remarks in class and treated an African American teacher with hostility.

The lawsuit seeks monetary damages and immediate recall of the yearbooks.

KING FAMILY FILES CIVIL SUIT IN ASSASSINATION

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Martin Luther King Jr.'s family is suing a man who once claimed he hired King's assassin, someone other than the late convicted killer, James Earl Ray.

Lloyd Jowers made the claim on national television in 1993, but has since refused to discuss it. The state lawsuit filed Friday seeks unspecified damages from Jowers and "unknown co-conspirators."

The lawsuit also seeks a jury trial in hopes of bringing out new facts about King's death.

Ray, who died of liver disease in April, confessed shortly after being killed in Memphis in 1968. He recanted soon after pleading guilty, but never succeeded in winning a trial, despite decades of legal maneuvering, aided at the end by the public support of King's family.

VACCO SEEKS TO REMOVE SIX APOLLO THEATER DIRECTORS

NEW YORK (AP) — Attorney General Dennis Vacco went to court Thursday in an effort to remove Rep. Charles Rangel and five others from the board of the Apollo Theater Foundation.

In a petition filed in state Supreme Court in Manhattan, Vacco said the directors' poor management had left the famed Harlem theater painfully short of cash. He sought to hold the six personally liable for the losses.

The complaint said the directors approved a contract that allowed the Inner City Theater Group to pay less than it should have for the rights to produce the syndicated television program "It's Showtime at the Apollo."

The foundation's directors and officers also failed to collect money owed to them by Inner City, which is headed by former Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton, the complaint said.

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THIRTEEN MINORITY STUDENTS GET RACIST E-MAIL AT BC

NEWTON, Mass. (AP) — Thirteen minority students at Boston College lapped on to their e-mail accounts this week to find the following anonymous note: "BC is for white men."

At the University of North Carolina, officials closed an e-mail account belonging to a former student after a racist message from that account was posted on at least 10 Internet news groups.

A University of Maine sophomore was hit with a hate crime lawsuit after he inadvertently sent a threatening message to a student via a campus computer bulletin board last fall.

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Maya Angelou honored at national women's conference

WASHINGTON — The National Political Congress of Black Women's 14th Annual Awards Brunch Honoree Dr. Maya Angelou cracked up the audience when she looked around the room and smirked. "Look how far I've come. Fifty years ago I wouldn't be up here on this platform. I'd be washing the windows."

Her testament echoed the theme of the brunch, "Rise Up Ye Women... So the Vineyards Shall Not Fail" (Isaiah 32). NPCBW National Founder and Chair Dr. C. DeLores Tucker said, "We are proud that all of our honorees are women who did rise up to serve their nation and their communities so that the fruit of the vineyards, the children, would not fail."

The brunch honored Dr. Angelou, internationally acclaimed poet, author and professor, the Million March Visionaries Phil Chonessa and Asia Conely, Elaine Bennett and Alma Powell, wife of retired General Colin Powell and

founder and chair of Best Friends, and organization that seeks to encourage young girls to remain abstinent and stay in school.

There was a special guest appearance by the Thompson quimproles, adopted one year ago after it was noted that their parents were not receiving assistance as customarily done in cases of multiple births.

Dr. Diane Watson, the California senator who has served in that body for more than 20 years, was given special recognition. She paid tribute to the vast number of black women legislators in America. Dr. Watson is president of the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women, and will soon be appointed Ambassador to Micronesia.

The brunch attracted more than 1,200 attendees. Those in attendance included the acting item Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, comedian/activist Dick Gregory and Rosa Parks.



Honored attendees at the NPCBW brunch include, from left, Dr. Dorothy Height, Chair and President Emerita, National Council of Negro Women; Honoree Asia Conely and Phil Chonessa, Visionaries of the Million Women March; NPCBW National Chair Dr. C. DeLores Tucker and the Honorable Cynthia McKinney, Congresswoman for Georgia.

Many Kenyans left needy after bombing

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — They came, some from days away, and wore their Sunday best. Several shed tears when they accepted checks from smiling officials offering condolences.

The solemn-faced Kenyans whose relatives were killed in the U.S. Embassy bombing collected \$1,670 Friday — an amount that they and the government that handed it out, know will never be enough to compensate for their losses.

"This is peanuts for someone who has died," Attorney-General Amos Wako acknowledged at the ceremony beneath a flowering jacaranda tree in downtown Uhuru Park.

Beatrice Akoth Yongo, a widow with four young children and another due in December, agreed. "It's not

enough, nothing could be enough," she said.

Yongo was one of 31 relatives paid Friday from donations that have reached \$3.8 million.

In the coming days, more of the 213 Kenyan families who lost a relative will be compensated, said Charles Njonjo, chairman of the National Disaster Emergency Fund.

Many families have already received an initial payment of \$833 for burial expenses. Additional payments will be made, if more money becomes available, Njonjo said.

A total of 248 people, including a dozen Americans, were killed in the Aug. 7 bombing in Nairobi. A near-simultaneous attack on the U.S. Embassy in neighboring Tanzania

killed 11 people, all Africans.

Benefits later will be paid to the most seriously injured among more than 5,400 people who were wounded in the Kenya blast, mostly passersby sliced by flying debris, Njonjo said. Amounts have not been determined.

Nearly two months after the bombings, many people still need physical and psychological help, and not enough is being provided, aid agencies said.

"The needs are very serious and we keep identifying more and more as the days go by," said Armino Agola of the Bomb Relief Support Unit, an umbrella group for all non-governmental agencies assisting bomb victims.

A total of 17 people remain hospital-

ized with serious physical injuries, including amputations and broken backs and limbs, the National Disaster Operations Center said.

Another 200 people need reconstructive surgery, Agola said. While they wait, mangled eyelids are falling to protect otherwise undamaged eyes, hands with severed tendons are turning into useless claws.

Patients, although unable to work, must now pay for treatment that initially was free. Most had no medical insurance.

Most rehabilitation programs need money, too, Agola said.

For example, 97 people were fully or partially blinded by flying glass and debris, and need training the Kenya Society for the Blind can't always

afford to provide. Many patients can't pay for the powerful glasses they need.

"The greatest need is that many, many of us have been psychologically traumatized, and very, very few are receiving help," Agola said.

Impatient employer have begun firing people who have not yet returned to work because they are still traumatized by the bombing, she said.

Yongo, 32, said without her husband's salary the family must now live on the earnings of less than half as much. "It has been so difficult," she said, bloting away a tear. Relatives cannot afford to help her. Yongo is afraid her husband's dream of university education for their children has died with him. "This makes me sadder," she said.

Strawberry undergoes colon cancer surgery

By Verena Dobnik
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Darryl Strawberry faced the biggest hurdle of his immature life Saturday — cancer surgery — that ended his best baseball season in years.

Surgery at a Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center removed a 16-inch portion of the Yankee outfielder's large intestine to get rid of a tumor almost 2 1/2 inches long, according to a statement issued by the hospital and the team. The tumor had nearly obstructed Strawberry's intestine, the statement said.

Doctors said the three-hour surgery went smoothly. Strawberry's tumor did

not appear to have spread and his liver did not show any sign of cancer, he said. Surgeons reconnected the intestine after removing the diseased segment.

Strawberry's medical team planned to test the tissue surgically removed to see if any cancer had spread to his lymph nodes. The results, which usually take about a week to come in, would tell doctors whether he needs chemotherapy.

The 36-year-old ballplayer was resting comfortably with his family after the operation as well-wishers gathered outside the upper Manhattan hospital.

"He means an awful lot to me," said Joe Perez, a red-eyed fan standing vigil for Strawberry. "I love him that man like a brother."

Strawberry's surgery dominated talk radio and filled the front — and back — pages of the city's tabloids.

"You gotta Believe," urged the New York Post's front page, taking a cue from the "New York Mets" 1973 battle cry. Strawberry started his checkered career with the Mets in 1983 and is the only player to win world championships with both the Mets and Yankees.

"It's another hill to climb," Strawberry said Friday, wiping away a tear as he recalled the get-well video sent to him by his Yankees teammates.

"They mean so much to me," said ESPN from his home in Fort Lee, N.J. "I want them to know my heart is with them."

In Arlington, Texas, the Yankees had Strawberry's No. 39 embroidered onto their hats, and they watched a taped message from him before wrapping up a three-game sweep of the Texas Rangers in the American League Division Series.

He told them: "Get going, beat them. He pointed at us and said, 'Do it!' The guys got a chuckle out of that," said manager Joe Torre.

Even the losing team wished him well. Several Rangers also wore his number in some manner.

"Baseball is very, very important to all of us," said Rangers manager John Oates. "But the bottom line is sometimes we have to step aside and think about human beings."

Strawberry joins about 100,000 Americans diagnosed each year with colon cancer, the third deadliest of the cancer killers.

This year, Strawberry was enjoying his best season in five years before cancer took him out of the lineup. After many comebacks from drug and alcohol addictions, personal problems and injuries, the past-time outfielder and designated hitter batted .247 with 24 home runs and 57 RBIs in 101 games.

He said that it was his troubled past that prepared him for what was ahead. Strawberry's wife Charisse, was told by doctors about her husband's condition while he was still under anesthesia following a colonoscopy on Thursday.

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Does anyone on the Hill want to listen?

It seems that the Republicans along with some Democrats haven't a clue as to the public's thinking or concerns, nor do they seem to care. The majority of the citizens of America have let it be known that the Clinton-Lewinsky sordidness—in and of itself—is a waste air time and print space.

Most importantly, there is a rising concern that we continue to pump money into the Star "Get Clinton machine" and have now added the costs of an entire congress and staff who do nothing but worry about the President's sex life. Rome is burning, guys. The market is going haywire, we haven't heard a word on the youth and education initiatives critical to the country's progress, and staff who do nothing but worry about the affairs issues is not being addressed not because of President Clinton, but because of a congress that will destroy the country to humiliate him.

It's time for the public to say no more. It's time for everyone to do his or her share to restore sanity since our elected officials seem incapable of doing so. This Republican congress is bent on keeping this madness going at the expense of our democracy. We believe that people should voice their concern about this cavalier attitude through their vote this November. Let congress know you will not continue to be ignored or play their vindictive games to the detriment of our country.

In her remarks to the House Judiciary committee inquiry on the impeachment of President Clinton, Congressional Black Caucus member Maxine Waters injected a note of reason to the unreasonable; a bit of sanity to the insanity. After reviewing the fact that 445 pages of pornography have been dumped on the public, and \$40 million has been spent at the expense of the taxpayer, she noted that this entire episode undermines the democratic process and subjects and cheapens the Constitution.

To be sure the truth will set you free

By Walter Smith

For a man who has lived twice his 44 years by working 18 hours a day, seven days a week, Reverend Alfred Sharpton is still remarkably energetic and continues to pursue his goals and dreams. "Take It To The Streets" is the mandate was given to him by Reverends Jesse L. Jackson and Dr. William A. Jones in 1968.

Wherever there was a need for a demonstration or a protest, it was Al Sharpton's job as Youth Director of SCLC to organize the protest in the streets. In spite of being demonized by the media, abandoned by the black political power, and threatened by extremist groups, Sharpton never wavered, he had a mandate, given to him by men he loved respected and trusted. He took to the streets like a lion to honey. Fearless and bold, he walked in the face of danger, looked the enemy in the eye and fearlessly carried out his mandate. Success was difficult to measure because of the media distortions that usually followed. However, New York State, National, and World history is now replete with activities attributed to Reverend Alfred Sharpton and his many activist organizations. Sounding his battle cry, "No Justice No Peace," Reverend Sharpton has traveled literally around the globe advocating equal justice for all people.

On Friday, October 2, 1998, Reverend Alfred Sharpton celebrated his 44th birthday at Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem New York. In a filled to capacity church, the reverend was honored by such noted icons from black America as Jesse L. Jackson, Kevell Mims, H. Carl McCall, Ossie Davis, Bobby Jones, Ron Daniels, Walter T. Walker, just to name a few. Speaker after speaker came forth to bestow praise upon him in an honest and sincere tone.

If one is tempted to ask "What manner of a man is this?" who in the face of opposition from his own community, who is demonized by his nation's media, arrested and jailed at will, subdued at a peaceful rally surrounded by police, continues to do what he does, only needed to hear his remarks. He related to a parable whereby an errant son had despised a vicious snail and decided to lash out with his fists at everything. His father had pointed out an object that seemed to be standing with nothing visible supporting it. "Now son" he said, "I want you to knock that object down." "No problem" the son replied, with that he took a healthy swing at the object and knocked it down. However the object sprung up again. After several times trying harder and harder, the object kept springing up, the son gave up. "What's holding it up?" he asked. "I don't see any visible support for it," he said. "What's on the inside?" the father replied, "It's not visible, but it's there, your viciousness and anger cannot conquer what's inside that you cannot see."

"If it were wherever you want," Sharpton said, "I can bounce back because of whom I have inside of me."

Reverend Sharpton attributes his

resilience to the God who resides inside of him. A God who took up residence in him when he was two years old. He has never abandoned his God and his God has never abandoned him. If Rev. Sharpton appears to be alone, it's the weakness of the human eye, heart. He has walked, and talked with God all his life and God has manifested an unpenetrable wall around him. He has not wavered from his mandated role as one who exposes and opposes injustice with truth, dedication and agitation.

Ten years ago in 1988, Reverend Alfred Sharpton was given something that he did not want. Privately because he was opposed to injustices committed by his people. Politicians and people of "substance" carefully distanced themselves from him and his activities. One of New York's leading politicians refused his support in a major political race by publishing in one of New York's daily newspapers, "I do not solicit, nor want, nor accept support from Al Sharpton, Vernon Mason nor Alton Maddox." During the Tawana Brawley ordeal, Reverend Sharpton bore the brunt of the negative criticism. He was ridiculed, lied on, spied on, falsely accused of tax fraud, indicted on charges stemming from his "Day of Outrage," and even imprisoned. Reverend Sharpton, however, never compromised his principles, once out of jail it was business as usual.

What's different in 1998 from 1988? It's simple, in the last 10 years, Al Sharpton has built a solid political following. His record on an independent political platform. One that commands up to 90 percent of the black vote in the state of New York. No more being demonized by the news media. No more being shunned by politicians. It is now being said, "If you are having problems, don't call the police, don't call your representative, don't call your minister, call Reverend Al Sharpton, he'll get something done."

Has Reverend Alfred Sharpton changed? Yes, last Saturday he became one year older, a little wiser and a little thinner. Has his philosophy changed? No, he has not. He's still committed to fighting injustice whenever and wherever it occurs. Does he have power? Yes, Holy Ghost power. The Power of Power. No more nor less than he had at age 4 when he preached his first sermon at Washington Temple in Brooklyn, New York. What is being seen now is God's reward to those who love and serve in truth with all their heart, body, soul and mind. God also has just rewards for those who oppose the work of his chosen servants.

The truth is the light of the world. In spite of the odds against him, Reverend Sharpton has diligently sought truth through justice, and justice through advocacy, agitation and protest. Out of this has come the truth, the light, and those who opposed him. He has responded the rewards of his struggles, and the truth has truly set him free.

Walter Smith is President of the Northeast Publishers Association.

The seas have shifted

By Asika Muhammad

Nigerian General Abdulsalam Abubakar has been in office only four months since taking over as Nigerian Head of State, but the "seas have shifted" dramatically in that time in his country's relations with the United States.

The official American perception of that country's military government—in the dumpster or worse up and now—and the corresponding Nigerian view of this country have gone from "grit" in its teeth—to "grit and grin"—as in handshake.

Instead of exchanging insults from afar, General Abubakar and President Bill Clinton traded compliments in the Oval Office in late September, when Mr. Clinton held his first ever meeting with a Nigerian leader.

"I think he is a great world leader who is doing a good job, told reporters after meeting with Mr. Clinton. "He has done very well as far as we're concerned, and I believe we should give him the support to the good work that he's been doing. We in Africa appreciate what he is doing."

This is a far cry from the attitude last year when then Head of State General Sani Abacha, rebuffed an American attempt to warm relations by telling a top-level delegation to be led by Deputy Secretary of State Thomas Pickens, that he and Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, Dr. Susan Rice would not be received at the Asok Rock Presidential Palace in Abuja if they came to Nigeria for meetings.

"It was a very constructive meeting," National Security Council press spokesman D.J. Crowley told reporters after the meeting. General Abubakar came to

power in June after the sudden death of General Abacha. Since that time, American officials believe, General Abubakar has moved Africa's most populous country toward a return to civilian democratic rule.

"President Clinton viewed it as a good opportunity to hear from General Abubakar how the transition is going, what steps he expects to proceed as they go through elections at the end of the year and into early next year. We view very favorably the fact that General Abubakar has taken this step."

In diplomatic terms, small things are signs of bigger things. The White House meeting between General Abubakar and Mr. Clinton was scheduled for 30 minutes, but it lasted nearly an hour. That was a good sign that the discussions concerning Nigerian reform efforts, as well as bilateral and regional security issues went well. President Clinton escorted his guest from the Oval Office to the Press Entrance of the White House rather than to the Diplomatic Gate, so that the Nigerian leader could talk to reporters.

For his part, General Abubakar's goals are simple: To see a United Nigeria, indivisible and forging ahead, where everybody despite his religion, his tribe, is given a chance to play his role. "We have set up an independent electoral commission and they have been given the guidelines for the election and we hope they will hand over (power) who whoever emerges as the head of state in my country."

Asika is a Washington, D.C.-based journalist and radio commentator.

The punishment doesn't fit the crime, but it helps the politicians

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

Recently, the New York State Legislature passed S-7820, a bill that eliminates parole for first-time violent felony offenders. Dr. Lenora Fulani, a 22-year-old woman from Isparta, New York, who was indicted for death by a felon on parole, the bill passed by a vote of 128 to 10 and became effective September 1.

A disturbing trend in our nation's criminal justice policy: politicians opportunizing off "a family's tragedy" to enact ill-considered and punitive bills that make them look tough on crime but bring no real public benefit. Under the banner of Truth-in-Sentencing, Three Strikes You're Out, or Sentencing Guidelines, these politicians who have no expertise in criminal justice matter, but they know a hot-button issue when they see it—pass laws that take discretion away from judges, parole boards and other criminal justice professionals, and substitute a rigid sentences that cannot be modified to fit the circumstances of the crime. A criminal justice policy that flows from the skillful manipulation of citizen fear, rather than from experience and substantiated facts, does not serve the public interest.

Under current law in New York State, first time offenders convicted of a violent felony receive an indeterminate sentence, pursuant to which the judge imposes a minimum and a maximum term. In passing sentence, the judge takes into account the fact that the offender may be paroled after serving one-half of the maximum sentence, (assuming time off for good behavior), so he or she may adjust the maximum as the individual case warrants. For instance, in order to be sure the convicted criminal serves at least five years, the judge

may impose a maximum sentence of ten years. The time served in five years is a function of the offender's behavior and the Parole Board's judgment.

The new law requires first-time violent felons to serve determinate sentences in prison without discretionary parole. Parole Boards will no longer have discretion over the length of incarceration. Convicted offenders will be required to serve at least 85 percent of the sentence imposed—hence, we can look forward to a swelling of the prison population.

S-7820 irrationally discards the enormous benefits of parole. The hope of parole is an incentive to support the release of prisoners. Parole officers generally support it. The prospect of parole encourages prisoners to participate in educational and treatment programs—in short, to try to rehabilitate themselves. Moreover, parole provides an extended period of supervision following release from prison, which can, if properly administered and adequately funded, assist an offender's successful integration to a community.

If our legislators were really serious about preventing recidivism, they would provide more resources to parole officers, enable them to provide the kind of support that really leads to changed lives. But such a reform is unthinkable as long as there are benefiting politically and economically from what the National Criminal Justice Commission calls the prison industrial complex, an entire system of dialogue on this issue.

Lenora B. Fulani twice ran for President of the U.S. as an independent, making history in 1980 when she became the first woman and African-American to get on the ballot in all fifty states.

Clinton's sex acts less lewd than Thomas Jefferson's

By Carolyn L. Bennett

No man stands higher in America than Thomas Jefferson. No one is more esteemed by Americans than Thomas Jefferson, holder and builder of a plantation on a hill—in on the backs and bellies of slaves. This great architect and intellect, builder of a university and the nation's library was also a rapist or sexual abuser, some say, of a young slave woman on his plantation.

Even the keepers of Monticello now admit some credence to the Jefferson-Sally Hemings story in their tour talk. So what, it was the custom in slavery time to bed the helpless. But it was also immoral, a gravely immoral crime against humanity.

And while we love Jefferson as well as man to lynch or lock up William Jefferson Clinton for what he did with Monica Lewinsky and others, what he did, or is said to have done, comes nowhere close to what Thomas Jefferson did. Demanding the greatest freedom for people of his kind and the greatest mercy for himself, Jefferson, without apology, preserved the institution of slavery and took his sexual satisfaction wherever he pleased.

What man's Jefferson's acts even worse is that his prey could not escape. Had Hemings left, she would be hunted down like a dog and killed. And if she stayed, she n't belong in the same conversation as slavery and slaveholder.

The president engaged in acts with consenting adults. And he had walked out the door any time they wanted to. And no one would have hunted them down.

It seems unprofessional to me; un-American to presume guilt, then force the evidence to fit the bill of impropriety.

The case against Bill Clinton is like a macabre scene on a lynchings spree.

And the reason seems pretty

straight forward. He isn't Thomas Jefferson. He had no 187 slaves. In fact, some of his best friends descended from slaves. He must be a lover of black people.

Angry that congress and press went after this president because they wanted to punish him. They wanted to punish him because—using Jimmy Carter who in his time admitted lust in his heart when the press asked the brash question—Clinton just asked too right, and rightly told them it was none of their business.

They rushed to judgment on Clinton because they didn't want the public, or a vocal minority of the public, to come for them. If they banished Clinton they figured people wouldn't ask what they were doing on the night of the murder. Had they committed some of the same acts Monica Lewinsky was accusing Clinton of having committed.

They refused him the presumption of innocence, the right to face his accuser and to see the evidence against him before they dumped it largely unexamined on the public because they wanted to punish him.

Like our system of justice that packs our prisons with people who are or aren't dangerous, it's time to identify with—it's all punitive.

We have a problem in government and in the press, but if we make it our own damn business to make him out to have committed high crimes that we blew up into high crimes slaveholder. And we n't belong in the same conversation as slavery and slaveholder.

The president engaged in acts with consenting adults. And he had walked out the door any time they wanted to. And no one would have hunted them down.

It seems unprofessional to me; un-American to presume guilt, then force the evidence to fit the bill of impropriety.

Carolyn L. Bennett is an assistant professor of journalism and mass communication at the University of Maine-Orono.

The need to reestablish black nationalist thinking

By Dr. Conrad W. Worrill

In the 20th century, the Honorable Malcolm X, the Honorable Martin Luther King, Jr., the Universal Negro College, the National Association (UNIA) and African Communities League (ACL) were at the forefront of ideas and organizing.

This was reflected in the First International Convention of the Negro People of the World in Madison Square Garden in 1920. Over 20,000 Black people from all over the world attended the choosing of Red, Black and Green as the colors of the Provisional Government.

The Black Nationalist tradition continued in the 20th century through the Nation of Islam and the organization of Afro Americanism who utilized many of Garvey's organizing tactics and strategies.

During the 1960's, the Black Nationalist tradition resurged through the influence of Malcolm X who adopted it as the political, economic and social philosophy of the organization of Afro Americanism. The UNIA in 1964 after he left the Nation of Islam.

Finally, the Black Nationalist tradition, today, is spearheaded through the African Centered Education Movement. The mass movement of Kwame Ninsin, African Liberation Day, Buy Black Campaigns, the Reparation's Movement, and Controlling Our Own Communities Campaigns are all part of the on-going Black Nationalist tradition.

Without vigorous Black Nationalist thinking and an aggressive program of action, we will continue to chase the false dreams created by our oppressors. We must put an end to this!

Conrad Worrill is the National Chairman of the National Black Front.

As black Nationalism emerged

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BUSINESS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

EAST HANOVER—The Exceptional Assistant Inc. will host a seminar on secretarial and support groups at the Ramada Hotel.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

NEW YORK—The NYU Business Department will host a seminar on understanding the U.S. economy beginning at 9 a.m. (212)998-7070.

UNION—The Union County Economic Development Corporation will offer free training programs on doing business on the internet at Kean University beginning at 1 p.m. (908) 527-1166.

JERSEY CITY—The Jersey City Economic Development Corporation will present a Financial Forum geared to local business owners at the Lowe's Theater beginning at 8:30 a.m. (201) 333-7797.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

NEW YORK—The National Minority Business Council Inc. will host the New York State Global Trade 2000 seminar at the Pitzer Conference Center.

NEWARK—The Newark Public Schools Business Development Workshop will host a seminar beginning at 2 p.m. at the Administrative Action Office. (973) 735-8760.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

NEW YORK—NMSDC will host a conference on financing business development at the Citi (212) 944-2430 for time and location.

TEANECK—The Regional Business Partnership will host the ninth annual trade and conference at the Rothman Center Fairleigh Dickinson University. Call 1-800-651-0927 for time.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

TEANECK—Consultants for Corporate Benefits will host a breakfast series at the Fairleigh Dickinson University beginning at 7:30 a.m. (800) 651-0927.

NEWARK—The NJ Commerce and Economic Growth Commission and Economic Growth will host a seminar on succeeding in business at the Gateway Hilton beginning at 10 a.m. (973) 623-1700.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

UNION—The Union County Economic Development Corporation will offer a business program on marketing business operations at Kean University beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 527-1166.

TRENTON—The New Jersey Council on Affordable Housing will host a seminar on housing and rules in purchasing. Call (609) 292-4533 for location and time.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

LIVINGSTON—NJ Union Minority Business Brain Trust will host a business plan seminar beginning at 6:30 p.m. (973) 505-8243.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

ATLANTIC CITY—The New Jersey Association of School Business Officials will host an exhibit and workshop at the Atlantic City Convention Center beginning at 8:30 a.m. (609) 858-7600.

Selective staffing is 'excellent'



JERSEY CITY — Selective Staffing of NYNJ is the recipient of the "1998 Award for Excellence" in the category of outstanding employer within the New Jersey business community by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association (NJBIA). The outstanding employer award is presented to companies that have demonstrated a creative and forward-looking approach to managing their human resources. Nominated personally by Jersey City Mayor Brett Schundler, NJBIA chose to focus their consideration on Selective Staffing's community outreach initiative, The Selective Corporate Internship Program. In its fifth year of operation, the firm continues to establish a new standard of excellence as well as fostering a sterling reputation within the New Jersey business community. The award provides over \$5,000 in proceeds to be donated to a charity designated by the awardee. Selective Staffing owners Miguel and Monica Manobco along with their staff are thrilled to be recognized by such a prestigious award. The husband and wife team were selected as a 1998 City News 100 Most Influential earlier this year.

Miami location for supplier meeting

NEW YORK — Some 4,000 registrants are expected as the National Minority Supplier Development Council (NMSDC) holds its annual National Conference at the Miami Beach Convention center October 18-21. The Conference theme is "Minority Businesses and Corporate America Building Diverse Partnerships for the Global Community."

"Although Miami is certainly an attractive venue. We attribute the growth of the conference attendance from year-to-year as further evidence of the immense growth in importance of minority business development to the nation as a whole. Certainly, our corporate members understand the value of a vibrant and fast-growing minority business sector," said Harriet Michel, NMSDC president.

Co-chairing the event are Paul Chisholm, president of Burger King North America and Joe Arriola, president and CEO of Avanti/Case.

A 435-bus Business Opportunity Fair will attract thousands of walk-through participants looking to do business in the largest national procurement event of its kind. The audience represents every state and industry group.

Major corporations and other well-known buying institution occupy half the booth; the top minority businesses in the country, the other half.

At the conference, buyers can become acquainted with the capabilities of minority suppliers who are ready to provide products and services to major corporations, hospitals, universities, government agencies and other major buying organizations.

The participation of more than 15,000 exhibitors, including Hispanic, Asian and Native American businesses in NMSDC activities makes it one of the most inclusive organizations in the kind.

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Setting financial planning goals

Dale G. Caldwell



Every personal financial plan begins with financial goal setting. I believe that financial goals should help a person achieve their personal life goals. My personal life goals are to maximize my health spiritually, mentally and physically. I make every effort to pray and attend church regularly to maintain my spiritual health. I try to exercise consistently and compete in tennis tournaments and triathlons to maintain my physical health. To maximize my mental health I attempt to improve my intellectual abilities, artistic skills and relationships with friends and family. In addition, I work on increasing my community involvement and financial stability to improve my mental health.

By understanding my personal life goals I am better able to develop my financial planning goals. The best way to begin to develop your personal financial goals is to think about what you would like to accomplish in life. You may want to travel around the world or state your own business or establish a charitable foundation. To achieve these goals you must develop a comprehensive personal financial plan.

I find that many people are not sure what their financial goals should be. I have listed below some of the more common financial planning goals to give you an idea of the types of goals you should consider setting. However, setting goals is not enough. You should decide on a realistic timetable within which to accomplish your personal financial goals. Some common goals include the following:

- To spend less money on non-essential items
- To eliminate unwanted personal debt
- To have enough of a monthly cash flow to live comfortably
- To ensure that your family is taken care of in the event of your death
- To protect your assets against the financial strain of a lawsuit or large medical bills
- To minimize income or estate taxes
- To be able to survive the loss of a job for at least six months
- To retire at the same standard of living that you have today
- To save enough money for a vacation, child's education, car, boat and/or a house
- To have enough income from investments to never have to work again

These goals are easily set and difficult to achieve. They will only be accomplished with a sound financial action plan. A good financial planner will help you put an action plan together with a realistic timetable to achieve your goals. For example, if you want to save money for your child's college education you must develop a financial action plan that would determine how much total money you will need (taking into account inflation), what type of investments you will use to save this money, what interest rate you expect to get on your investments and how much money you must pay each month to achieve your goal. In addition, you will determine if you can afford to put this amount away each month. If you cannot afford this investment you must decide how to adjust your financial goals.

Financial goal setting is not easy. However, it is the most effective way to increase the probability of maximizing your personal financial health.

Dale G. Caldwell is a Certified Management Consultant (CMC), a former Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and a National Director of Recruiting for Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group.

Get financing ideas at dinner

Overcome impediments to obtaining financing and enhance economic opportunities for your business by attending an informative networking session, dinner and panel discussion on October 15 at the New Brunswick Hilton in East Brunswick starting at 5 p.m.

The event is given by a coalition of business organizations including the Banking Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association and Summit Bank. Participants will get a chance to interface with prominent members of the business and financial communities and hear distinguished industry speakers. The evening will cover such topics as working with your banker and attorney and building your capital base and using capital to bridge your business ideas to corporate growth and success.

Leavell also emphasized the deep and abiding bond between the black press and the community. "If you want to know what is happening and how it affects us, you have to read a black newspaper across this country."

We started out because of a need, and the need still exists. People need to understand that. They need to understand that the Black Press has been here and will continue to be here. When we talk about black ownership, we own more black newspapers than any other medium in the country."

Hosted by Congresswoman Carolyn C. Kilpatrick (D-Mich.), other panelists included Ben Johnson, special assistant to President Clinton; Ed Lewis, publisher and CEO, Essence Communications; Bryon Lewis, chairman and CEO, Unworld Group, Inc.; Sam Chisholm, chairman and CEO, The Chisholm-Mingo Group; and Louis Carr, executive vice president, BET Holdings, Inc.

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Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by Packaged Facts, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

*Packaged Facts is a product of FIN/DSP Research Publications Group

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Minority Business Journal

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Minority Business-to-Business Directory

The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a directory of minority- and woman-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The *Directory* networks minority businesses, identifies minority and woman businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The *Directory* features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority and woman-owned business and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African American community.

Call (908) 754-3400 for more information

Minority Business Journal & Minority Business-to-Business Directory opens up a whole new world of possibility

NNPA pledges continued fight for advertising

By Olive Vassel
NNPA Correspondent

National Newspaper Publisher Association President, Dorothy R. Leavell, galvanized participants at a special advertising workshop during the recent Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Annual Legislative Weekend, pledging to continue to fight for a fair share of advertising dollars for the African American press.

Among a distinguished panel of top industry officials at the CBC's "Tools for the 21st Century: Getting Our Piece of the Advertising Pie" workshop, Leavell reminded attendees that newspapers were the pioneers of the industry in the African American community, but have since been deprived of their piece of the advertising pie.

Leavell said black newspapers have been abused by White-owned advertising agencies, who control the huge budgets of corporate America and the U.S. government.

"When it comes down to the dollars that have been spent in black media, and black newspapers in particular, we have been used and abused," she said.

Leavell praised the work of the black advertising agencies, but she said that African-American newspapers and other media need more support from them around the negotiation table. "We fight for the black agencies, but we need you to fight harder for us," she said. Leavell also called on Congress and Black agencies to support the Black newspapers.

"I'm asking our congress people — at the beginning when they start talking about media programs — that we be at the forefront of

those plans. I'm asking our advertising agencies — when they get an account that we all use the sensitivity we have for each other to make sure that our people are represented and able to get information."

Citing 1997 advertising budgets for several government agencies — The NNPA President Postal Rep. Dorothy Leavell

value, \$168 million; Amtrak, \$33 million; U.S. Army, \$83 million — Leavell described a system that has virtually excluded black newspapers. "We get less than one half of one percent" of that money, "It's an insult what they spend with us."

"It's multi-billion dollar industry, and we're not getting our fair share. The agencies are not getting their fair share. You do need more respect, but we need more respect too."

Leavell also emphasized the deep and abiding bond between the black press and the community. "If you want to know what is happening and how it affects us, you have to read a black newspaper across this country."

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Local Briefs

Annual foundation gala attracts corporate business support

CRANFORD — The 6th Annual Gala of the Union County College Foundation will take place on October 24 in The Commons of the Cranford campus of UCC. Starting at 6:30 p.m., the evening will include a cocktail hour and a full-course gourmet dinner, capped off by a Venetian table, all accompanied by entertainment and music for dancing throughout the evening. An exciting raffle for 24 valuable prizes will also be conducted at the event.

According to Ellen Dotto, of Bell Atlantic, one of the co-chairs of the Reservation/Sponsorship Committee for the Gala, "No charitable event of this magnitude is possible without the assistance of generous underwriters and sponsors from the business community, and our committee is hard at work enlisting participation." Those corporations participating at the highest level include PSE&G, Bell Atlantic and FNC Bank.

Africa Conference at MSU Oct. 22-24

UPPER MONTCLAIR — "Images of Africa: Stereotypes and Realities," an international conference on Africa, will be held at Montclair State University Oct. 22-24. Keynote speaker is Martin Bernal, internationally acclaimed author of "Black Athena." He will speak on "European Images of Africa: Tale of Two Names, Ethiopia and Nubia." Bernal, who teaches government at Cornell University, will speak on Oct. 23 at a 6:15 p.m. banquet. Sessions on the first day of the conference include "Africa at the Crossroads: Issues of Development," "Religions, Traditionalism and the West," "Africa, Orientalism and the West," "Africa in the Americas: A Question of Identities" and "Inventions of Africa: Reflections from the Dark Mirror." Additional information, or to register for the conference, call (973) 655-7516. Additional conference information is available at the MSUAC web site at <http://ch2s2.montclair.edu/forac>. Registration forms are available at the site.

United National collecting for Hurricane Georges relief efforts

PLAINFIELD — Four United National Bank Offices are serving as drop-off points for non-perishable food items for victims of Hurricane Georges in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. In a joint effort with the Bilingual Day Care Center, El Centro, the Plainfield City Council and the Plainfield Public Schools, donations are being accepted at United Nations' three Plainfield locations — 202 Park Avenue, 1125 South Avenue, and 699 Arlington Avenue, as well as the Bank's Green Brook Office at 82 Greenbrook Road. Representatives from these organizations will pick up all donations on a daily basis from each office and send them directly to both countries to aid families who lost their homes as a result of the storm.

Drug Courts come to Union County

ELIZABETH — The Union County Superior Court, Criminal Division today announced the start of a new Drug Court Program for non-violent substance abusing offenders.

The Drug Court developed in the County involves the establishment of a specially designed court calendar intended to utilize various aspects of the criminal justice system to reduce recidivism and substance abuse among nonviolent adult substance-abusing offenders and increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intensive judicially monitored treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, and the use of graduated sanctions and other rehabilitation services.

The first Drug Court was developed in Miami, Florida in 1989 by then Florida Attorney General Janet Reno as a response to a rise in drug related crime and frustration with a system that was ineffective when employing only traditional methods to deal with drug addicted offenders. Currently, approximately 420 jurisdictions have implemented, or are planning to implement, a Drug Court Program to address the problem of substance abuse and crime. New Jersey now has established adult Drug Court Programs in Camden, Essex, Passaic, and Union Counties.

New director will focus on quality of life crimes

IRVINGTON — A former veteran Newark police officer was recently sworn in as the new civilian director of the Irvington Police Department before an audience of about 75 municipal officials, family members and law enforcement associates.

Robert Rankin, who spent 31 years as a Newark police officer, pledged to bolster community police efforts, reducing response time and to foster a more harmonious relationship between cops and residents, which have been identified by municipal officials and civic leaders as major concerns.

Expanding on response time, Rankin said, "We really have to improve on that," by timing the officers, then establishing a standards Rankin said he would hold supervisors accountable for the response times of their officers. According to the director, the problem may just be a perception; with time, however, we "have to change the image." During her remarks at the ceremony, Mayor Sara B. Bost said, "Having spend his entire career in neighboring Newark, Robert is professionally, socially and geographically familiar with Irvington. I believe that he is poised, therefore, to be the ground running, in the effort to make our community safer and more secure."

In September Bost appointed

Rankin to the post, as part of her administrative restructuring plan; he was unanimously confirmed a week later by the seven-member Irvington Municipal Council.

Rankin said he would concentrate on the reduction of quality of life offenses — like prostitution, loitering and public drinking — often the precursor of serious crimes. Using prostitution as an example, Rankin said instead of tackling the offenders, it is necessary to pursue the source — clients — many of whom abuse alcohol. Conducting sobriety checks at known hot spots, Rankin explained, would deter potential clients, and thus, the flow of services.

Rankin said innovative approaches like this may be needed to address problems that standard methods have failed to abate. Rankin added, he will take a close look at "what has been tried."

Rankin has begun to assess Irvington's crime statistics, street location, day, time, repetition, and crucial aspects of the police department, including the number of police officers, how they are deployed and their strengths and weaknesses. This will allow us to "match resources to demands," and to make a measurable impact in the reduction of crime and the increase of safety in the community, Rankin explained.



Robert Rankin recites the oath of office as he is sworn in as director of the Irvington Police Department. Joining him are Irvington Mayor Sara B. Bost, center, and Rankin's wife Carol.

Offering praise for the IPD's 183 police officers, the director said they are "quite good," but we just have to "get a wee bit more" out of them. "I expect that people work," Rankin said, especially in light of IPD's annual operating budget of \$13 million. "I want the department to produce \$13 million worth of work."

Corporate volunteering: alive and well

NEWARK — The spirit of corporate-sponsored volunteerism is alive and well according to a survey released today by The Prudential Insurance Company of America. The national survey revealed that three out of four workers participate in volunteer programs when offered by their employers.

The survey also found that although 62 percent of respondents say the companies they work for encourage volunteerism, less than half — 48 percent — of the respondents said that their employers sponsor volunteer programs.

"Our research indicates that an untapped volunteer resource exists within corporate America," said Art Ryan, chairman and CEO of Prudential. "If more companies sponsor volunteer projects, more Americans will participate. At Prudential, this survey makes us realize how important our community relations efforts are, and

shows other companies how easy it is to support their respective communities."

The survey findings were released as part of Prudential's Fourth Annual Global Volunteer Day to which took place recently. More than 12,000 Prudential employees and their families will volunteer in a variety of community service activities world-wide.

Prudential's Global Volunteer Day brought together employees from all of the company's business units, along with their families, to work with non-profit organizations in their communities. Each event around the country is ~~sponsored~~ organized by the employees. Community projects, including professional career development for disadvantaged women, blood clean-ups, information technology support for community centers, and a costume party for children with cancer, will take place in the United States, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, Italy, the Philip-

pines, Brazil and Argentina.

During Global Volunteer Day many employees participated in the Prudential Foundation's Challenge Grant Program. If a volunteer project meets selected criteria, the partnering non-profit organization can receive a \$1,000 grant. If all projects meet the criteria, the Prudential Foundation could contribute as much \$100,000 to communities around the world.

"The survey shows that Americans will participate in corporate-sponsored community relations programs," said Mary O'Malley, vice president of Prudential's Local Initiatives Division. "The challenge is for any company to create a volunteer program that motivates employees to get involved. At Prudential, our employees provide the leadership that guides our volunteer efforts and makes a difference in their communities."

"Global Volunteer Day brings Prudential employees together to work in



Prudential volunteers get a kick out of volunteering as they spruce up Outman Street School.

their communities, but is also a celebration of the company's year-round outreach efforts at the international, national and local level," said Gabriel E. Montoya, vice president of Prudential's Community Resources Division.

School employees suspended for overtime abuse

NEWARK — Newark Public Schools District Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall today announced two employees in the district's Department of Motor Transportation have been suspended without pay following an investigation into allegations of abuse of timekeeping and inappropriate use of overtime.

The school district's Office of Investigations' acting on information it had received, conducted a lengthy investigation based on the evidence they gathered. It is alleged that the supervisor of Motor Transportation and a senior mechanic helped each other clock in for overtime that they did not work. The two allegedly manipulated the system to gain thousands of dollars in unearned

overtime wages.

"This alleged behavior demoralizes all who come in contact with it and cheats every member of the Newark school community, especially the children," said Dr. Hall. "We will not tolerate wrongdoing at any level in the Newark Public Schools and will do our utmost to ferret out those who would seek to defraud the school district."

The employees have been suspended without pay pending the outcome of administrative hearings which will be held in compliance with the regulations of the Merit Systems Board.

The matter has been referred to the Division of Criminal Justice in the Office of the Attorney General for further investigation.

West reappointed to disability organization

NEWARK — Senior Aide to Newark Mayor Sharpe James, Calvin West, has been reappointed to serve at the City on Newark's representative to the National Organization on Disability (NOD) for a term of two years. This is West's fourth reappointment to NOD.

"I am glad that Calvin West has been reappointed as Newark's representative to NOD," James said. "As a member of NOD, he has done a great deal to protect the rights of all people with disabilities, and ensure that they are able to continue to be meaningful members of society."

West has been a Newark representative to NOD since 1988. During that time, West has worked with Mayor James to guarantee the rights of those with disabilities in the City of Newark.

According to West, "NOD has done tremendous things to advance the rights and freedom of people with disabilities. As a result, disabled citizens are now leading more meaningful productive lives. I thank Mayor James for the opportunity to serve as part of this outstanding organization."

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Photos by Billy Jones

The Ebony Fashion Fair comes to Newark

NEWARK — The Ebony Fashion Fair came to Newark recently to display the latest elegant fashions. Forty-one years ago Ebony Fashion Fair blazed a trail of fashion excellence that has endured the test of time. Four gorgeous black models brought fashion excitement to audiences in ten cities where they displayed an array of dazzling American designer fashions.

The monologue by the late Freda DeKnight, EBONY magazine's home service director and EBONY Fashion Fair's first commentator, paraded fashions in home-span rhetoric weaving imaginary tales about each model and fashion.

Audiences of the '90's still experience lively commentary but now it's enriched with synthesizer programming, a drummer, a bassist, R&B, Jazz and song and dance routines performed by talented members of the troupe.

Thirteen models move swiftly down runways and across stages

emphasizing elegance and excitement as they display American and European fashions brilliant with color, detail and pizzazz.

Funds raised by sponsors of the show from 1958 through the 1987/88 tour reached \$28 million. At the conclusion of the 40th annual tour, sponsors' income since the show's inception had soared to \$45 million for various charities and scholarships.

"Firsts" were also achieved during 40 years of travel when EBONY Fashion Fair introduced a full-figure female model in 1982, and identical twin brothers as models in 1983. The show has given 540 young people and 112 wardrobe assistants the opportunity to visit cities and countries of many cultures.

Sponsored by 180 prestigious social and civic organizations, sororities, fraternities, The College Fund/UNICEF, NAACP and Urban League, EBONY Fashion Fair has become a major force in fundraising for their various charities.



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Religion Calendar

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

NEWARK—Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry will celebrate its annual dinner at the Robert Treat Hotel beginning at 5:30 p.m. (973) 481-6650.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

SCOTCH PLAINS—Union Catholic High School will host a craft fair at the school's gymnasium beginning at 9 a.m. (908) 889-8475.

EAST ORANGE—Essex Catholic High School will hold a celebration for the school beginning at 2 p.m. (973) 539-8950.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

NEWARK—The Rev. Al Sharpton will address the congregation of First Mount Zion Baptist Church (at 973) 242-4173.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

ATLANTA—Join us for the 3rd annual Gospel Heritage Gala Concert & Awards. For detailed information, call 615-276-5656.

HAWTHORNE—The Northern NJ Sunday School Association will sponsor the 35th annual Christian Education Convention through the 24th at the Hawthorne Gospel Church, 1-900-663-4410 or (973) 263-1540.

EAST ORANGE—God's Armor Inc. will hold a reading and book signing from Susan Johnson-Cook beginning at 11 a.m. (973) 675-1155.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

EAST ORANGE—God's Armor Inc. presents Alvin Darling and Celebration in the only area of the state. Call (973) 675-1155 for information.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30

RARITAN—Father Joseph C. Martin will give a lecture titled "Symptoms of Sobriety" at Raritan Community College beginning at 7:30 p.m. (732) 356-1160.

EAST ORANGE—Our Lady Christian Church will hold prayer services beginning at 7 p.m. Call our Lady in East Orange for information.

Commentary

Time for national repentance, healing

By Joseph E. Lowery

"We have all sinned and fallen short." Romans 3:23

William Jefferson Clinton has a weak streak in his being that stands in the need of prayer and grace. Kenneth Starr has a mean streak in his being that is also in need of prayer and grace. The Amen Corner will not attempt to defend the president. His behavior is indefensible and reprehensible.

A man of Clinton's intellectual prowess, not to mention coroner's sense, should yield not to temptation no matter how aggressively proffered by a flimsy, glibly insincere. To attempt to negotiate a perilous litigative that only partially defines the Lewinsky affair after surviving the Jennifer Flowers and Paula Jones misdeeds is both foolhardy and arrogant. The president has confessed his sins, asked for forgiveness, and promised to go and sin no more. He and his family have been through the very bowels of hell. Enough already.

Let someone else try to exhort Kenneth Starr to confess and repent for his transgressions, his persecutorial—rather than prosecutorial—behavior. He typifies forces that have tried to destroy Clinton from day one by any means necessary. When they struck out on Whitewater and the other criminal charges, they went to bat to find him in his private sex life. Starr should receive the garbage dumped in his lap by neocrony Linda Tripp. The Paula Jones case, which triggered much of the assault, has been dismissed.

To add contempt to insult, Judge Starr submitted a pornographic report obviously designed to humiliate and devastate the president and his family. Now it appears on the basis of Clinton's children to view, Congress is determined to upstage "Penthouse" as a porn publication.

Unfortunately, the president's weakness and the special persecutor's meanness are signs of our times. We have tolerated weakness and celebrated meanness. Our culture has been wounded by moral compromise and political violence. So, Clinton and Starr are mirrors of us—arrangements of power, unbridled vindictiveness, pleasure and profit by any means. Where have all the principles noble and mighty gone? Where are all the companies good? Long time passing. We are still groping

Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, Chairman of the Black Leadership Forum and co-founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for meaning in a new and undefined era.

The Cold War hysteria era has passed. But during that era we sacrificed principle, compromised ideals, minimized honor, maximized opportunism, exalted materialism, demonized the saints and canonized the devil. All in the name of fighting the evil empire. We have sown the wind and we are reaping the whirlwind. We have deserted the good spouse of spirituality and we are carrying on an affair with the prostitute of materialism and greed. It is an incestuous affair and produces offspring with the congenital defects of economic exploitation, sexual exploitation, racism, sexism, gun addiction, drug addiction, pleasure and profit by any means necessary.

We need a revival of spirituality, values and truth and high moral principles. Our perception of morality must extend beyond sex. Moral authority, for the President, includes the capacity to lead the nation to address the issues of hunger, health care, education, and peace and justice.

Our challenge is to seek a resolution that serves the best interest of the nation not a political party. Congress nor the White House. The first step

needs to be a national act of repentance. We have all sinned. The Amen Corner does not believe impeachment nor resignation can serve the best interest of the nation. The President can be stronger, the nation can be kinder and gentler and we can all be purged of selfishness and baptized in grace and forgiveness. Healing of the nation can begin.

Finally, to many people have expressed alarm at the media frenzy surrounding this crisis. Senator Joseph Lieberman in a brilliant, if ill-timed, statement frightened us when he said no President can ever again have privacy because of new media standards.

Columnist Anthony Lewis goes a step further and asks can the President ever have confidential talks with advisers? Are secret service personnel doomed to be spies or witnesses? Who in the world will seek office under those circumstances? Privacy in our lives is as necessary as water.

Lewis also quotes NYU professor of philosophy and law Thomas Nagel who wrote each of our inner lives is such a jungle of thoughts, feelings, fantasies and impulses that civilization would be impossible if we expressed them all. All social life would be impossible if we tried to become wholly persons whose thoughts, feelings and private behavior could be safely exposed to public view. In addition, look at how we reward those who take on themselves to confess other people's wrongs and inductions in books, etc.

Let us pray that the Republican (Gingrich) strategy of releasing more and more damaging materials (mud-slinging) will not prevail and compel the nation to suffer the trauma of the process of impeachment or resignation.

A great book contains a verse that reads: *When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace all day shall supply, The flame shall not consume thee, I only design thy dress to continue and thy gold to refine.* Amen!

The Rev. Dr. Lowery is chairman of the Black Leadership Forum and co-founder and President Emeritus of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference-SCLC.



Faith Tabernacle Outreach Ministries held its first annual Women's Retreat at their location in Plainfield. The event showcased women and their strong commitment to their faith and ways to dealing with life everyday problems.

Church holds first retreat for women

PLAINFIELD—Faith Tabernacle Outreach Ministries Women's Department held its first Annual Women's Retreat recently. The Retreat was held at the Faith Tabernacle Church, 1301 West Front St. in Plainfield. The theme was "Broken Vessels Being Mended & Delivered by the Word of God, the Power of God, the Faithfulness of God."

The event featured two powerful evening services with guest speakers. Pastor Patricia Rogers-Wiley founder and pastor of Oil of Joy Ministries in Brooklyn, NY and Pastor Katherine Corbett who is the founder and pastor of New Life Ministries in Brooklyn, NY. There were two dynamic daytime workshops led by Dr. Jacqueline Burke, Associate Pastor of the host church, Faith Tabernacle Church in Plainfield, and Dr. Julia McKinley founder and pastor of New Beginning Fellowship in Philadelphia, PA.

The Retreat attendees indeed experienced being mended and delivered from issues that bind and hinder many women from experiencing the fullness of life that God promises. Attendees received Godly advice for their situations, circumstances and issues. The Word of God promises, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." Psalm 34:19



Dr. Julia McKinley was one of the many speakers at the first annual Women's Retreat event at Faith Tabernacle Church in Plainfield.

Faith Tabernacle Outreach Ministries (FTOM) is headquartered in Plainfield under the leadership of Bishop Herbert L. Bright, Sr. D.D. The FTOM women's department executive director is Mrs. Debra Bright of Plainfield and the director is Mrs. Kay Banks of Plainfield, NJ.

Bues band rocks local church

EAST ORANGE—Recently-Breakin' the Bondage Blues Band gave a concert of Christian music to over 200 people in the sanctuary at Calvary-Roseville United Methodist Church, 400 Main Street, East Orange. Their authentic Chicago-styled electric blues with guest artists, the Faith Gospel Tabernacle Choir, had everyone rockin' and swaying in their seats. These talented musicians gave freely of their time to raise money to

help to complete the basement of their newly built church.

This Christian Band through blues music brings the word of hope of Jesus Christ to people. The Band has appeared at a wide variety of locations including the Clinton State Correctional Institute, and the City Gospel Fest at Bridgeport, Connecticut. The 3rd Annual Blues 2000 & Beyond Music Festival at Ellenville, N.Y. and several churches including the Pompton Reformed

Church, Pompton Lakes, N.J. and God Shepherd Mission, Paterson.

The Band is interdenominational with the musicians representing various Christian Churches Bonded northern New Jersey. The Breakin' the Bondage Blues Band is composed of vocalist Born John Witherspoon, guitarist Frank Robinson, bassist Keith DeFord, harmonica player Bob McFarlan, drummer Tom Powell and guitarist Ken McNeil.

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The efficacy of wholeness

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

The late great writer, lecturer and social commentator Toni Cade Bambara once said "To be whole-politically, psychically, spiritually, culturally, intellectually, aesthetically, physically and economically is of profound significance. It is significant because there is a sense to this. There is a responsibility to self and to history that is developed once you are 'whole,' once you are well, once you acknowledge your powers."

Wholeness is defined as: in a healthy state, sound, unimpaired, injured. Wholeness is the natural state of man. To be whole means to be fully functioning, self-actualizing, in the individuation process, a productive contributor to society.

America, despite its propagation of the myth of rugged individualism, (which has nothing to do with wholeness) actually promotes mindless conformity. The socialization process is one of forcing square pegs in round holes, demanding unique personalities meld into whatever the ruling elites and/or Madison Avenue deem to be the flavor of the month. This is all the more reason for us as Africans in America to seek to become whole.

We have historical reasons for seeking to recover our sense of personal and collective wholeness. For as wholeness means asserting ourselves, evolving and growing into our true and noblest selves. That is what our ancestors were prohibited from doing: they were abducted and brought to these shores. We are the only group in America who did not willingly or willfully choose to come here. Even before we arrived, every effort was made to diabolically stomp out our African personality and

reduce us to beasts of burden. Given the historical and psycho-social implications of the legacy of slavery, each of us should make our quest for wholeness our main priority.

How does one go about becoming whole? Recognizing and acknowledging where we are impaired—mentally, psychically and emotionally wounded—is the first step. We need to understand we are multi-faceted beings that require internal as well as environmental balance and harmony. When one inhabits an insane and dysfunctional environment one often finds his or her norm is correct. Not so! We have to make an honest appraisal of our situation. Social colonialism where we engage in self-destructive and self-negating behaviors such as suicide, fratricide, disrespect, abuse, overindulgence and addictions are not normal. They are an indication that something is seriously and tragically amiss.

Next, we must attempt to sort out the causes of our dysfunction. We already know them. They include: racism, mental indoctrination which causes us to hate ourselves, and living in an environment that overvalues left brain (hemispheric) functioning. African people (when we are sane) are whole-brain people, that is, we are most right hemisphere oriented. This is why we are so thrown off and unbalanced in this society. We must not dismiss or underestimate the importance of being whole-brained people.

Regaining our balance is part of our healing regimen. Being whole-brained means relying on the abstract, non-material resources at our disposal such as, intuition, creative imagination, extraordinary faith, etc.

Being whole means bring

more to the table of life, to our relationships, our liberation struggle, to the community and world. Being whole means functioning fully on all levels. This is what Toni meant by acknowledging our powers. We go far greater than we realize. Wholeness in relationships means being able to give and share as opposed to being needy and sucking the vitality out of our partners, extended family and community and not having anything to give back.

We have a responsibility to ourselves to be ourselves. We can't give what we don't have. We cannot give what we are not. Empowerment means flipping the switch and igniting (and expressing) the latent vitality within us. Talk is cheap. We flip the switch mentally by raising our consciousness, by envisioning ourselves differently. We flip the switch with action, doing what must be done to empower and improve ourselves and losing ourselves from the shackles of white supremacist indoctrination.

We have a responsibility to history: that is we must acknowledge, honor and return to the ancient wisdom teachings such as: MAAT (Divine Order, Balance, Harmony, Truth, Righteousness, Justice And Reciprocity) that prepare wholeness. Africans intuitively know the significance of the circle of cyclical movement: what goes around comes around. As whole and enlightened beings, we have a responsibility to the future. We cannot allow the wickedness, crass materialism and imbalance of the current system to continue unchanged and unchecked. The correlative to wholeness is health, empowerment and freedom.

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Health Calendar

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition will hold a seminar for parents at the United Family and Children Society beginning at 9 a.m. (732) 699-0944.

RA-WAY—The Blood Center of New Jersey will hold a community blood drive at the Masonic Lafayette Lodge beginning at 5 p.m. 1-800-756-6385.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

MONTCLAIR—The YMCA of Montclair and North Essex will hold a free breast cancer screening at their location beginning at 9 a.m. (973) 746-5420.

EDISON—The Arthritis Foundation will hold a training workshop on the disease beginning at J.F.K. Conference Center beginning at 8:30 a.m. (732) 283-4300.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a women's symposium on wellness at the education building beginning at 8:30 a.m. (732) 418-8110.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

JERSEY CITY—The American Cancer Society will hold its fifth annual Walk Strides Against Breast Cancer 5k walk at Liberty State Park beginning at 11 a.m. (201) 507-9500.

PLAINFIELD—Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will hold a discussion on good health and good choices beginning at 6 p.m. Call the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for location.

NEW YORK—The American Cancer Society presents Making Strides Against Breast Cancer five mile walk at Liberty State Park beginning at 11 a.m. (201) 507-9500.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition will hold a women's health expo at the Plainfield W.I. Pagan Hall (732) 699-0944.

NEWARK—The Newark Department of Health and Human Services will provide free influenza vaccinations Call (973) 733-4495 for time and location.

WESTFIELD—Women for Women's Health will hold a health lecture on the mind and the Westfield Municipal Building beginning at 7:30 p.m. (908) 889-4842.

TEANECK—Holy Name Hospital presents a program on the mind and body at the hospital's conference room beginning at 7:30 p.m. (201) 833-3186.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a conference call for all hospital board members beginning at 1:30 p.m. (908) 359-8494.

NEWARK—The Newark Department of Health will offer free influenza shots at the city hall basement. Call (973) 733-7552.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

NEW BRUNSWICK—Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a blood or ve at the hospital's courtyard beginning at 9 a.m. (732) 937-8820.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

NEW YORK—The Lindesmith Center presents a seminar on the gateway drug policy at the Open Society Institute beginning at 4 p.m. (212) 544-0995.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

ELIZABETH—Union County College Campus in Cranford will hold a lecture on women's health at their Cranford campus beginning at 8:30 p.m. (908) 527-4745.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Robert Wood Johnson will hold a class on sibling and the changes when a new baby arrives at the hospital board room beginning at 11 a.m. (732) 937-8820.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

NEW BRUNSWICK—Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center will hold a support group on women's health. Call (732) 937-8820 for information and location.

BELLEVILLE—Clara Maass Medical Center will hold a support group for women living with or dealing cancer at the lobby beginning at 7 p.m. (973) 450-2116.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

NEW BRUNSWICK—Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center presents a four week course on stress management at their medical school beginning at 7:15 p.m. (732) 937-8820.

Face-to-face is better than a lecture in HIV counseling

ATLANTA — A simple change in HIV and STD counseling across the nation could make a tremendous difference in slowing the spread of these sexually transmitted diseases, suggests new data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Researchers found that when counselors "encourage" and "discuss" prevention strategies with people at risk, rather than simply providing a "lecture" on HIV prevention, it significantly reduces their risk of STDs.

In a study involving nearly 6,000 heterosexual men and women attending STD clinics in five U.S. cities

including Newark, CDC found that talking with, rather than to men and women at risk actually resulted in a 20 percent decrease in new STDs among study participants overall, and a 40 percent decrease among adolescents and people diagnosed with an STD on their first visit.

Additionally, the study, published in the October issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that the "encouragement" approach was just as effective in two brief 20 minute counseling encounters as in a more extensive, four-session program. These findings indicate that, if well designed, brief interventions can make a significant impact.

"This study showed that it's not how much you talk to people about HIV prevention that matters most — but how you talk to them, especially if people are encouraged to participate in developing their own prevention plan," said Helene Gayle, Director of CDC's Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention.

The CDC study entitled Project RESPECT, compared two session and four session interactive prevention counseling to the two-session didactic messages typical of current care. The "encouragement" approach used in the interactive session was mod-

eled after the personalized HIV counseling approach recommended by CDC since 1993.

Counseling was provided to HIV-negative heterosexuals at five public STD clinics including one in Newark who came in for STD examinations. Participants were followed for 12 months to measure new STDs including gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, HIV along with self-reported condom use. The study is one of the few studies to date to measure not only condom use, but also disease outcomes. Findings at each of the five sites showed a significantly lower incidence of STDs among both men and

women participating in interactive counseling sessions, with the greatest impact among adolescents and individuals diagnosed with STD at their initial visit.

The program seems to make the greatest difference for those who need it most," said Dr. Kevin De Cock, Director of HIV Prevention Surveillance and Epidemiology. "We know that the majority of new STD infections, including HIV occur among teens and young adults, and the interactive approach dramatically reduced risk among young people and others at high behavioral risk."

Health fair gets great results



PLAINFIELD — Kathy Grady and her son Jeremy were just two of the over 1,000 people who attended Plainfield Health Department's health fair recently. Attendees were able to visit a large variety of booths offering test and counseling. Ten exhibitors conducted tests for blood pressure, glucose, glaucoma, hemoglobin analysis, HIV and body fat analysis in addition to instruction on breast self-examination, mammograms and pap smears for women over fifty.

Chats with mom increase condom use

By Russ Byers
Associated Press Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Teen-agers who got serious talks about safe sex from their moms were three times more likely to use a condom their first time, a study found. "The bottom line is that parents can make a difference," said the study's author, Kim Miller, a sociologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The study was published in Thursday's issue of *American Journal of Public Health*. The CDC said the findings are

significant because teens who used protection their first time were 20 times more likely to use condoms in the future.

The researchers interviewed 372 sexually active teens and their mothers who lived in New York, Montgomery, Alabama, and San Juan, Puerto Rico. Fathers were not interviewed. Of the 372 teen-agers questioned, 122 teens had discussed safe sex with their moms before having sex, while 250 either never talked about condom use with their mothers or did so after they had lost their virginity.

In the first group, 3.4 teens used a condom for every one who didn't — roughly three times the rate of condom use in the second group, where only 1.2 used a condom for every one who didn't.

Moms talked about condoms with boys at an average age of 13.9. Girls' talks came slightly later, at 13.5. The average age at which teens said they first had sex was 13.8.

The authors used their research to rebuke conservative groups who want lessons on safe sex removed from sex education in schools.

Health threats to children on the rise

WESTFIELD — Most people would agree that it would be unhealthy for a young child to smoke a cigarette. But did you know that exposure to secondhand smoke from a cigarette, cigar, pipe or its smoker is a major cause of illness among children in the US?

The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that nine to 12 million youngsters under 3 years of age are exposed to secondhand smoke in their homes. Smoking by parents results in many health problems in young children, including:

- Low birth weight infants
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
- Pneumonia
- Bronchitis and bronchiolitis
- Impaired lung function
- Otitis media (ear infections) and hearing problem complications
- Increased episodes of asthma
- Delayed recovery from respiratory illness
- Increased absenteeism at school
- Fire-related injuries
- Increased likelihood of developing a smoking habit and nicotine addiction
- Adult illness, including cataracts, heart disease, and lung cancer

Parental smoking is a major health risk for young children — but can be avoided! If you are a parent, the answer is simple. Do not smoke in your home or around your children and do not let other people smoke around your children. Ask about smoking policies in places that you take your children, such as school, day care, churches or synagogues, and recreation and community centers. Make sure that children in these areas are not exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke.

For information on indoor air quality visit the Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes website <http://www.montana.edu/westair> or call Jennifer Hughes at (406) 243-1111. The Montana State University Extension Housing Program.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County will be offering a program, "Improving Healthy Indoor Air Quality" on Monday, November 16, from 7-9 p.m. at 300 North Avenue East, Westfield. Come learn more about the many causes of indoor air pollution and some strategies to control indoor pollutants. To register, or for more information on indoor air quality, please call Jennifer McGuire at (908) 654-9854. The cost is \$5, and registration is required.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension provides information and educational services to all people without regard to sex, race, color, national origin, disability or handicap, or age.

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First health fair celebrates healthy babies and mothers

PLAINFIELD — In celebration of National Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies (MHMB) Month, the local MHMB Coalition planned a host of activities for child and family health. The mission of the MHMB Coalition is to improve the health and well-being of women, infants and children in the City of Plainfield. All activities planned for the month are geared toward increasing community awareness about the importance of adequate prenatal care, good nutrition

during pregnancy, childhood immunizations and other maternal and child health issues. Last week, MHMB hosted a "Kick Off" celebration at the First Annual Health Fair, sponsored by the Plainfield Health Department. Activities included free health screenings, baby gift packs, prizes, free food and lots of health information for women and families attending the festivities. Throughout the month, the Coalition will sponsor a series of "Open House" events at local agencies who provide maternal and child health services.

In addition to the "Open House" activities, every baby born to a Plainfield mother during the month of October will receive a free MHMB Diaper Bag, filled with diapers, T-shirts, bibs, health information and much more.

For more information about MHMB Month or if you would like to get involved, please call (732) 699-0944 or 1 (800) 206-6988.

United HealthCare announces cuts in service

MINNETONKA, Minn. (AP) United HealthCare Corp. will end Medicare health maintenance organization coverage for about 59,000 members in 11 states, including New Jersey, a move that is expected to return United to profitability in 1999. The Minnetonka-based company on Thursday announced the scope of the cuts, which are effective Jan. 1. United said in August that it would withdraw from several Medicare markets.

The \$120 million pretax charge announced Aug. 6 will be enough to cover losses in those markets, the company said. While the cuts affect about 13 percent of United's Medicare mem-

bers, the company said it likely will reduce its Medicare membership by another 10 percent next year. "We cannot continue to serve markets that cannot be economically viable for us in the foreseeable future," said Jeanne River, chief executive officer of United's Health Care Services Segment. Members affected by the cuts will be automatically transferred into a traditional Medicare fee-for-service program. United, which operates no HMOs in Minnesota, expects to mail letters to affected members within two weeks. The decision affects 86 counties in California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Louisiana, New York, New Jersey,

Ohio and Texas. United is the latest of several managed-care companies to pull back from the Medicare market because of rising medical costs and the federal government's decision to limit increases in Medicare reimbursement rates.

The Health Care Financing Agency, which pays for Medicare, on Thursday rejected an industry appeal to either renege medical benefits or out-of-pocket fees for senior citizens. The American Association of Health Plans predicted the decision would force plans to drop as many as 300,000 Medicare patients nationwide.

Severely simple, affordable ways to fix up the home



MINNEAPOLIS (ARA) — Bringing new life to the exterior of your house doesn't have to be a major undertaking, requiring extensive re landscaping or painting. Small projects and additions can transform the appearance of your home, giving it a fresh, clean look.

"There are a variety of quick, inexpensive spruce ups that can make a notable difference," states Louise Madlem, marketing manager for Wright Products, America's #1 manufacturer of storm and screen door hardware. She offers the following suggestions:

- Paint your front door and/or trim. Pick a new accent color that draws attention to your entryway. From classic to adventurous, this is a great way to give your house a whole new character.

- Upgrade your door fixtures. "Many of our customers are surprised how much a designer storm door latch or lock can add to the appearance of their home," notes Madlem. "Our Accents line is especially popular because the brass-look elegant finish offers the beauty of solid brass with the durability of the best acrylic coatings. Changing your storm door latch is an opportunity to upgrade the safety of your home as well as we offer several deadlock accessories that complement our latches."

- Change or expand your outdoor light-

ing. Whether you select new light fixtures to frame your front door or add landscape lights along your front walkway, lighting can make a dramatic change in your home.

Invest in a few ceramic pots and fill them with flowers and/or plants. Place them on your porch, among your bushes, wherever they can add a splash of color or life.

- Can visitors easily identify your house? Creative selection and placement of your address numerals is both practical and decorative.

- Special delivery! How about a new mailbox? Again, this is a great opportunity to personalize a necessary home accessory.

Roll out the welcome mat. Often overlooked, but always useful, your door mat can express your sense of style and warm the entry to your home.

Based in Rice Lake, Wis., Wright Products creates and produces America's premier line of latches, handles, deadlocks, closures and miscellaneous components for storm and screen doors. From stylishly ornate to classic or contemporary, Wright products are used by more than 90 percent of America's storm and screen door manufacturers. For more information about their designer latches and locks, call (800) 972-2792, or look for their products in leading home centers and hardware stores.



Governor announces \$135 million available for home ownership deal

TRENTON—Gov. Christie Whitman and Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Commissioner Jane M. Kenny today announced that \$135 million will be made available to create new home ownership opportunities for the state's low and moderate-income residents.

The funding will be made available using two New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) programs: the "Dream Come True" Statewide 5% Mortgage Program for home buyers, and the Urban Home Ownership Recovery Program (UHOPR) for developers and not for profit housing sponsors.

"Home ownership has come to symbolize the realization of the American dream," said Gov. Whitman. "I am pleased to announce that with the low interest 'Dream Come True' Statewide Mortgage Program, more of New Jersey's hard working families can now find home ownership within their reach."

Families and individuals who are interested in purchasing a home can access below market rate mortgages using the HMFA "Dream Come True" Statewide Mortgage Program. "Dream Come True" makes mortgages available for eligible low- and moderate-income, first-time home buyers at 5% fixed interest with 0 points. The "Dream Come True" mortgage program's 5% interest rate will provide families with increased buying power and savings of thousands of dollars in interest over the life of the loan. In addition, buyers may qualify for mortgages with as little as 3% down.

Today's announcement also opens the application process for the fourth phase of Governor Whitman's UHOPR program, which is expected to produce up to \$65 million of new for-sale urban housing. The deadline for developers and non-for-profit housing sponsors to submit applications for UHOPR construction financing is January 28, 1999.

Governor Whitman is committed to increasing housing opportunities across New Jersey, especially in

our aging municipalities," said Commissioner Kenny. "The UHOPR program encourages pri-



vate developers and non-for-profit housing sponsors to build new homes, and is bringing mixed-income neighborhoods back to our urban centers.

Using the UHOPR program, HMFA works partnership with commercial lenders to provide funding for the construction of single family homes and home buyer mortgages in urban neighborhoods throughout the state.

A total of \$275 million in construction financing and subsidy has been committed over from phases to UHOPR, which will produce more than 2,150 new homes and 7,200 new construction jobs in June

1996. Gov. Whitman announced the first phase of UHOPR, which included financing for 904 units in 14 municipalities. Approvals in the second and third phases of UHOPR have brought the construction financing totals to 1647 units in 59 developments throughout the 19 municipalities statewide.

This investment of \$135 million home buyer mortgages and urban for-sale home construction financing demonstrates our commitment to increasing housing opportunities for New Jersey families," said HMFA Executive Director Deborah De Santis.

DeSantis said during Whitman Administration - HMFA has made \$2.4 billion financing available for affordable housing. Under H-EASY 2000 along with the Governor's comprehensive housing plan, New Jersey is providing \$700 million in construction and permanent financing and grant's for rental housing and home ownership in New Jersey.

The rental and home ownership financing programs of HMFA and the Department of Community Affairs have benefited more than 25,000 low and moderate income families during the past four-and-a-half years. About half of those were first-time home owners, while the balance included family rentals, special needs and senior housing.

By comparison, from 1990 to 1993, only 1.3 billion was provided for affordable housing. The programs benefited a total of 14,360 individuals and families. Only 5,709 of those, or 40 percent, were first-time home buyers. The balance included family rentals, special needs and senior development.

The new "Dream Come True" Statewide Mortgage Program is available through participating area lenders. For more information on HMFA consumer mortgage programs, call the hotline at 1-800-437-HOUSE. Developers and non-for-profit housing sponsors may receive a copy of the UHOPR JV application by calling Paul Ceppa at 609-278-7617.

For the Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Arkansas.

In 1982, a rare and dangerous strain of E. coli O157:H7 was identified as the cause of two outbreaks of foodborne illness. Since that time, this organism has been associated with foodborne illness from hamburger, salad bars and apple cider."

Once in the intestines, the bacteria can produce a toxin that can cause hemolytic-uremic syndrome. Symptoms include abdominal cramps and diarrhea that often becomes bloody. Vomiting and nausea are occasionally associated with a low-grade fever. Hemorrhagic colitis can last from four to 10 days, Brady says.

Unrelated injuries are linked to an estimated 16,000 to 48,000 cases of foodborne illness each year. E. coli from untreated juice was blamed in the 1996 death of a 16-month-old Colorado child.

"Escherichia coli are a group of bacteria normally found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals including humans, and also are found on fruits and vegetables," says Pamela Brady, food safety specialist

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Cider, other juices to get warning labels

WASHINGTON (AP)—Apple cider, a staple for some during the cold winter months and holidays, carries with it the risk of food poisoning, and federal officials say manufacturers must now attach warning labels to these types of unpasteurized juices.

The Food and Drug Administration says unpasteurized fruit and vegetable juices must carry a warning statement beginning Nov. 5, according to the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.

"The new label should read, 'Warning: This product has not been pasteurized and, therefore, may contain harmful bacteria that can cause

serious illness in children, the elderly, and persons with weakened immune systems."

The warning also may be displayed on signs or placards at the point of purchase.

Unrelated injuries are linked to an estimated 16,000 to 48,000 cases of foodborne illness each year. E. coli from untreated juice was blamed in the 1996 death of a 16-month-old Colorado child.

"Escherichia coli are a group of bacteria normally found in the intestines of warm-blooded animals including humans, and also are found on fruits and vegetables," says Pamela Brady, food safety specialist

HOME

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Home/City News

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Halle Berry wants to move on

stones, and that was a cartoon."

NEW BRUNSWICK—Johnson & Johnson Co. presents the works of photographer Owen Kansler at their world headquarters. Call (732) 524-3352 for time.

Although she has played a variety of roles since 1995, Berry jumped at the opportunity to play Zola Taylor, Frankie Lymon's wife in "Why Do Fools Fall in Love." "I've played the nice girl next door, but never the glamorous diva, the girl in the middle," she explained. "The closest I really came to that was 'The Flint-

"I'm realistic enough to know that I can't change that by myself, but I will continue to try and do products that are meaningful to me like the Dorothy Dandridge story I'm

Who would ever think a beauty queen would be so unlucky in love? However, Berry's tale is not unlike a lot of other beautiful women. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Berry won a number of beauty crowns before embarking on an acting career. After her jump start in "Jungle Fever," she appeared in



Berry played the title role in Alex Haley's miniseries, "Queen." It was the highest-rated sequel in television history and won her the NAACP Image Award for Best Actress and the Best Newcomer Award from the Hollywood Women's Press Club.

Rykodisc and WGBH proudly present the original soundtrack to *Africans In America*, a six hour documentary series produced by Boston public television station WGBH and scheduled to broadcast on WNET/Thirteen October 19 through 22.

Created by a team of award-winning documentary filmmakers, *Africans in America* explores the impact of slavery on both black and white Americans during the formation of the United States, from the first English settlements to the eve of the Civil War. The series illuminates the critical role of Africans and African Americans, slave and free, in challenging the United States to continuously reevaluate the meaning of its founding documents and its commitment to freedom.

The series will be accompanied by a companion book to be released

The soundtrack is the work of singer, composer and historian, Bernice Johnson Reagon. Music Director of the series, Reagon's

original compositions and arrangements are an integral, interwoven presence in the series. Featuring Reagon's own performances solo and with her daughter, musician and close collaborator, Toshi Reagon, as well as those with Sweet Honey in the Rock, the *Africans In America* soundtrack is a powerful journey through time and place—evocative, troubling, hopeful, chilling, always beautiful.

By Alexandra Hunter

With a name like Fiend, one might wonder what kind of devilish charm such a character possesses. But this No Limit Records rapper got the nickname from friends who liked the wicked manner in which he dispels knowledge in parable-laden lyrics. The sports fan grew up in a poor section on New Orleans' listening to Run DMC and Public Enemy while handing out in front of the bar his did owned, he's rhythmic for the sheer fun of it. That is, until Master P signed him to his wildly successful No Limit Records. Now Fiend is on the roster with C-Murder, Silk the Shocker, Mta X.

Fiend's debut album, *There's One in Every Family*, contains several songs that come as tributes to

friends and family he's lost Says
Fiend, "My brother Kevin Bailey
died in a car accident on his birth-
day a few years back. He wasn't
drinking, but he was going about
140 MPH in his new 200ZX. He's
what keeps me going - his watch-
ing over me. Telling me that I can
do it."

Fiend goes on, "I lost a good friend — a girlfriend of mine — to a murder. She was shot by her ex-boyfriend on her front porch. Those are the type of songs I write about — best, songs that force me to remember the loved one I lost in this game."

Not all of Fiend's songs are sad. Other are about partying at clubs like the now-closed City Lights nightclub. "New Orleans used to be a fun place to party when I was 17

and 18, but
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MAKING
SONGS IS
NATL'S CUR-
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DADTTED
HAD SEED
E FAMILY

part of a song almost everyday
based on what I see and when I
make a song, I try to write it so that

people listening can feel my pain. They should know how the situation hurt or helped me based on the words I use to tell the story and that's one thing [Master] P. liked about my style. He liked my storytelling ability and he's like a coach to me. He gets everyone amped and

"Whether I'm in a big coliseum or a little small-town venue, I perform like I'm giving a million people a show, because the fans pay their money to see me at my best no matter how big the crowd. My philosophy is only on certain nights, like the

...sophy on rappin' is this I'd better
...like there ain't tomorrow.
...because if I slip up, there's plenty of
...silented broths out there willing to
...take my place and they ain't gonna
...be nice about it."

ard him as the
ance of "Little Penny Hardaway" in
ce commercials and on his comedy
oun Roll With The New Now you
n read about America's
teststand-up comedian, Chris Rock,
ROCK THIS! (Hyperion, Mass Mar-
t Paperback, November 1, 1998)—a
arious, no-holds-barred look at every-
ing from race to relationships to polit-

A veteran of stand-up comedy for 17 years, Rock has built a reputation on what Spin Magazine says is his "ring," "deal-with-it humor" and honest, intelligent analysis of society more the edgy, observational humor that has earned him two Emmy nominations and critical acclaim, and a legion of devoted fans.

In chapters headed "Cash Flow," "I Did 'Shut Up!'" "Float On," and "Social Studies," Rock takes a hilarious look at such topics as the trouble with money, phone sex, a day in the life of a functional drug addict" and why we don't need a death penalty.

From stones of growing up a black boy in a nearly all-white school to his now famous bit, "Marion Barry, Crackad," Rock tells it all — just like it

If you have an eye
to have your eyes

been as successful in as many areas of the entertainment industry—television movies and music as Will Smith. And certainly not before age 30. Mark Bego chronicles this amazing rise to stardom in a brand new

As a teen in the late 1980s, Smith established himself as one of the most successful rap vocalists of that period. In 1990, he found himself the star of his own network television show, *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air*, which became one of the most successful series of the decade. Smith's musical talent has

Smash's musical talent has earned a resurgence, earning him sales of over 1 million. Good music is the key for their up-beat, clean, and positive messages, his unique music style sets him apart from traditional rap artists.

Most recently, Smith has starred in big-screen hits such as *Independence Day*, *Dead in America*, and *Men in Black*, which have made him one of today's most sought-after young stars.

Will Smith *The Fresh Prince*
Makes readers through the many facets of his stellar career, to his happy marriage to Jada Pinkett and the recent birth of their son. Smith will just be turning 30 as his next movie *Enemy of the State*, his movies theaters this fall will be the first of his starring in a movie. The movie has definitely made it to the top, and is not moving from that spot any time soon.

The past

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Taking the time to search for the right bank

Taking the time to search for the right bank, or potential investor, is critical to a company's long-term success.

Regardless of whether you borrow from a bank, you should still establish a working relationship with a financial institution that provides you with services you may need. Many sources can assist you in finding the best bank for your business needs. One way is to search the newspaper and Yellow Pages to research how banks position themselves to the public. Look for banks that market themselves as lenders to small and mid-size businesses, or for those with a business lending division. You may also look for referrals from accountants, attorneys, insurance agents, trade associations, vendors, and business peers.

Your initial approach
Once you decide on which banks to target, do not cold call -

research contacts names first from your business peers. Once you have identified a list of bank contacts, start with a telephone call and be sure to use the name of referral source when you introduce yourself. Identify yourself, describe your company, and state your financing goal. Ask the banker if he or she is willing to visit you at your office. Once you've made the appointment, invite the banker to bring another decision maker to the meeting.

Use a setback to your advantage
A bank might turn you down on the initial call for any number of reasons. For example, it is possible that the bank:

- * Does not loan to businesses in your industry.
- * Is a conservative lender.
- * Sees your business as being too big or too small
- * Is not interested in the size of

the loan.
* Is not a business-oriented bank.

* May not have funds available at the time.

Often business owners have found the right bank for their needs by asking for a reference from a bank that initially turned them down. Ask the loan officer why your loan request was rejected.

The ABC's of choosing a banker
Choosing a banker is a two-way street. To be sure you're on the right track, follow these six guidelines:

1. Do your homework. Assemble your financials. Know your history. Have information in a readily accessible form, including cash flow and balance sheets, for at least two or three years. The bank will want to see forward projections of how you will be using any money that you borrow and, most impor-

tantly, how you plan to pay it back.

2. Go for compatibility. Choose a banker you'll be comfortable talking with. Pick someone you can trust, because your banker becomes your agent inside the bank.

3. Lane up more than one bank contact. Establish at least two contacts inside the bank.

4. Look for the two-way street. Bankers who earn their keep are sources of good business referrals. Ask your banker what business he or she can bring to your company.

5. If the banker is not interested in sending business your way, then he or she is probably not the right banker for your business.

6. Be honest. Solidify your relationship by assuming your banker

that you will share everything: the good news and the bad. Then follow through. There should be no hidden agenda. You can't expect your banker to take a risk if he or she is not certain that you have been open and straightforward.

7. Check capacity for growth. If you'll be approaching the lending limits of the bank, chances are it is not the right bank for you. Banks can be too large, but they can also be too small.

Choose a bank that you can grow with.

The preceding information on financing, provided courtesy of VISA and SCORE, was written by Richard L. Russakoff. Richard is an expert at working with small to mid-size businesses to secure bank financing and has a 100% track record using his Point process. He can be reached by E-mail at INCRUSS@aol.com.

Learning how to enhance your job skills

MENLO PARK, CA - Diane Dorney, executive director of Office Team, a leading staffing service specializing in highly skilled temporary office and administrative professionals, outlines 10 steps workers can take to enhance their career growth in 1998.

1. Establish goals - "Every employee should develop a list of objectives to achieve in 1998 and review it frequently, taking action at every opportunity," says Dorney. "This could include activities such as building customer relations or reading trade journals to keep apprised of industry trends."

2. Get organized - Whether it's utilizing project tracking software or a day planning notebook, strong organizational skills are key to moving forward in your career.

3. Seek new responsibilities - Offering to assume additional duties or oversee projects, regardless of size, will provide valuable experience and foster professional growth.

4. Learn new technologies - "With new computer systems and software being introduced daily, your technical training is a must," explains Dorney. "Developing greater expertise with new applications or becoming more Internet-savvy will enhance your career development."

5. Network - Join a trade association to interact with others in your profession and stay current on trends in your field. Maintain contact with former business associates, college alumni, professors, and so on.

6. Dress for success - "Select business attire appropriate for the position you would like to have in your company," recommends Dorney.

7. Become a mentor in your department - Not only will you benefit by assisting co-workers and fostering staff camaraderie, but you will strengthen your interpersonal and leadership skills.

8. Be visible - Without boasting, take prudent steps to ensure your accomplishments are known to others. This can look like where appropriate, actions such as speaking up during meetings, presenting suggestions for improving business practices or even arriving early to the office.

9. Remain flexible - "Always be open to new challenges and assignments," Dorney says, adding, "Don't dismiss a project if it falls outside of your job description - it could serve as a springboard to gaining new responsibilities."

10. Stay upbeat - Maintaining a positive attitude when workdays peak demonstrates an ability to produce results under pressure, which is always a valuable trait.

Survey explores views of working African American women

WASHINGTON, DC - African American working women say that, despite the economic recovery, job security has gotten worse in the last five years, and that it is more difficult to find affordable child care and to save for retirement. These are among the findings of a major new study conducted for the Working Women's Department of the AFL-CIO.

Part of an unprecedented outreach campaign by the AFL-CIO Working Women's Department, the Ask A Working Woman study supplemented a popular survey that was returned by 50,000 working women. The research firm of Lake, Soum, Snell, Perry and Associates conducted the survey from July 30 to August 3, 1997.

More than three-quarters of African American working women say they provide about half or more of their household income, compared with two-thirds of all working women, according to the scientific survey. African American women are also more likely to work full time. Eighty-five percent of African American women surveyed say they work full time, compared with 77 percent of all women surveyed.

Secure leave, equal pay, pension benefits and health insurance are among the top priorities cited by the African American women surveyed. Overall, African American women are more pessimistic than women overall about the conditions

for working women today. By a margin of nine to one (89 percent) they believe that women should join together to work for change in the workplace. Overall, 79 percent of women say they should work together for change, rather than individually.

The scientific survey also found that almost two-thirds of African American working women (61 percent) are the heads of their households, compared with less than half of all working women.

African American women are more likely than women overall to say that having a job that provides child care is very important to them (58 percent compared with 33 percent).

African American women have a safe and healthy workplace, but they are not satisfied with their pay, benefits, and so on.

Nearly 70 percent of African American women (69 percent) cited equal pay for equal work as important.

African American women are more likely than women overall to say that in the last five years things have gotten worse in the area of promotions for women.

To address the other issues women raised, the AFL-CIO launched a new Working Women Working Together



Network. The Network will work to organize at the local, state and federal levels, press for passage of legislation of concern to women, and promote women's involvement in elections at every level of government.

The program will combine local, state and federal human resources, legal, financial, and other services to help women advance their careers and improve their quality of life. The program will also provide information on the availability of state and local child care and so on.

The AFL-CIO is also organizing a grassroots campaign to include a national Equal Pay Day on April 3, 1998, to bring the issue of equal pay home to hundreds of communities. Women can join the Working Women Working Together Network by calling toll free 1-888-971-9797.

Cut credit cards in half

Credit card bills got you down? Below are eight ways to reduce the costs of borrowed money.

1. Switch to a low-interest credit card. This is especially important for the approximately 70 percent of credit card users who carry a balance from month to month. Why pay 18 percent or more when you can probably get a credit card for 12 percent, or even less, with a short (e.g., 6 month) "teaser rate"? To obtain a list of issuers of low interest credit cards, call RAM Research at 800-344-7714 or Bankcard Holders of America at 540-389-5445.

2. Avoid using high-interest department and specialty store credit cards. Many charge rates are in the 20 to 22 percent range. Virtually all of these stores also accept lower-rate bankcards (e.g., Mastercard) today, making their use unnecessary.

3. Beware of credit card cash advances and use them sparingly, if at all. The effective annual interest rate is often in the 20 to 30 percent range because few card issuers offer grace periods on cash advances and many charge cash advance fees and a higher interest rate than for purchases. Ditto for credit card "convenience checks." They work the same way as cash advances and are costly.

4. Accelerate debt repayment by paying more than a lender requires. One example is the use of home equity loans for car purchases. Repay the loan over two to five years, not the bank's 10 or 15-year home equity loan schedule.

5. Request a PowerPay analysis from Rutgers Cooperative Extension. PowerPay is a computer program which shows the time and dollars saved by repaying money previously used for a debt that is repaid to other creditors. The total amount paid monthly toward debt remains the same until every debt is repaid, 10 to 0.

6. Seek cheaper sources of money than credit cards. Alternatives might include borrowing against a cash value life insurance policy (or 401(k) plan, family loans, and borrowing from a credit union.

7. Negotiate a discount from lenders. Many credit card issuers will reduce annual fees and/or interest rates upon request. Call them on their toll-free number and hint that you will switch to another credit less your request is honored.

8. Repay credit card bills quickly, as soon as you receive your monthly statement. If you pay your bills promptly early in the billing cycle, this will decrease the average daily balance, because there will be fewer days with a higher balance upon which interest is charged.

NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY LOAN FUND

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Fundraising & Public Relations Associate - Dynamic growing statewide community development organization seeks motivated associate with excellent communication, organizational, writing skills. Responsibilities include grant writing, donor relations, database management, media relations. Successful candidate will be a key member of a team led by the Senior Director of Resource Development & Public Relations. Fundraising, grant writing and/or public relations experience preferred. Competitive salary and benefits commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Positions open until filled. Respond as soon as possible by sending cover letter and resume to: Executive Director, New Jersey Community Loan Fund, 16-18 W. Lafayette Street, Trenton, NJ 08608, fax (609) 393-9401.

NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY LOAN FUND is a dynamic and growing, nonprofit community development loan fund serving the entire state of New Jersey. Headquartered in Trenton, the Fund's revolving loan pool approaches \$12 million. It has a solid, ten year performance track record and attracts support from a wide range of institutional and individual investors who want to make socially responsible investments. The Fund manages those investments by making loans to well-designed, economically viable projects and ventures which result in housing, jobs and greater economic self-sufficiency for lower income people and greater strength for lower income communities.

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Newark Boys & Girls Clubs receives grant from Allstate Foundation

NEWARK—In recognition of its tremendous contribution to the lives of young people, the Allstate Foundation today awarded a \$2,000 grant to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark. Allstate New Jersey insurance agent Stanley Schultz presented the check to Myles P. Varley, the Clubs' executive director, at their facility located at 161 Littleton Avenue in Newark.

The money will be used to support the Clubs' many programs which focus on five core areas: character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts and sports and fitness and recreation. Over 3,500 Newark area young people from disadvantaged, economic, social, and family circumstances benefit from these programs.

"The Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark is an organization vital to our community and to the safety and development of our greatest resource, our young people," said Schultz, who runs an Allstate agency in Springfield, "On

behalf of Allstate New Jersey and the Allstate Foundation, I am proud to present this check to help support the Clubs and our community.

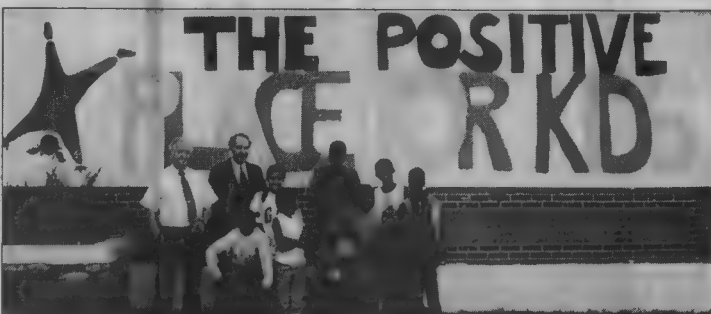
"In a world that has never seemed more threatening and devoid of promise for a growing number of children, the Boys and Girls Clubs offer hope," said Varley. "Our Clubs offer young people what they need and want most — adults who respect and listen to them; a safe, fun environment; and a place where they can grow into responsible and respected adults. We thank Allstate New Jersey for its support."

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Newark is part of a nationwide affiliation of local, autonomous, organizations and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America working to help youth of all backgrounds develop the qualities

needed to become responsible citizens and leaders. It is facility-based with three clubs in the City of Newark at 1 Avon Ave., the Littleton Ave. location, and 422 Broadway. Established in 1952, The Allstate Founda-

tion supports non-profit organizations that help build stronger communities and address the needs of at-risk youth. The Foundation currently supports programs in three focus areas: personal safety and security, automobile and high-

way safety and neighborhood revitalization. In 1997, the Foundation contributed \$7.7 million in grants through its corporate headquarters in Northbrook, IL, and 17 field office grant committees throughout the country.



Children of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark join Executive Director Myles P. Varley (right) to accept a \$2,000 grant from Allstate Insurance Agent Stanley Schultz at the club on 161 Littleton Avenue in Newark.

PBS special helps kids deal with anger

PITTSBURGH, PA—"What do you do with the mad that you feel when you feel so mad you could bite," was a question a child really asked one day. "When I heard it," recalls Fred Rogers, "it reminded me how intense children's anger can be — and how hard for them to cope with or understand." As one of the highlights of the fall season on PBS, *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* will rebroadcast from October 19 through 23, a week of programs addressing angry feelings in ways that young children can understand and use in their everyday lives.

Does Mister Rogers ever get angry? "Of course, I do!" he answers. "We all have our own way of saying we're angry. Ever since I was a boy, I have been able to express my feelings at the piano. And my daily swimming routine also helps me. Angry feelings are a part of being human, but we don't need to hurt anyone or ruin things when we're angry. Television is full of images of people hurting one another! But this same medium can give children such helpful models and messages. There are so many things we can do with our hands and our feet when we're angry — so many things besides hitting, shooting, or kicking."

Through the week, Mister Rogers meets with old and new neighbors who show ways that can help children channel energies — in dance, art, exercise and music.

Off-Broadway STOMP! performers invite Mister Rogers to a rehearsal, where they demonstrate how they use their hands and feet along with ordinary household and industrial



Fred Rogers (left) observes a young man learning how to play the piano.

materials like barrel drums, tin pails, pipes, and push brooms to make high-energy percussive rhythms.

• New York artist Red Grooms gives Mister Rogers a tour of his studio, showing creative things he makes with his hands, his whimsical movable wooden sculptures and a walk-through bus with life-size characters.

• Paralympic swimmer with spine bifida, Jay Styperek, gives Mister

Rogers tips on improving his swimming stroke.

• School-age Montgomery brothers, Adrian and Anthony, play the piano and talk with Mister Rogers about using music as a way to express feelings.

In the *Neighborhood of Make-Believe* segments this week, the "mad feelings" theme becomes a

dilemma for puppet character Lady Elaine Fairchilde who becomes frustrated when her painting doesn't turn out the way she wanted. In her anger, she does some upsetting magic in Make-Believe. Through the help of an old friend, she finds a way to rechannel her feelings by pounding and sculpting clay (something she can do well), and learns how important it is to keep looking for healthy ways to manage angry feelings.

Respectful of children's feelings during this week and throughout the series, Fred Rogers says, "If we can learn to talk and play about our feelings when we're young, we may be able to take that capacity with us through life. It could make the difference, when a strong wind hits us, between bending and breaking."

Mister Rogers' Neighborhood also includes closed captions for deaf and hard-of-hearing viewers provided by The Caption Center. The show is accessible to blind and visually impaired people through Descriptive Video Service (DVS). Funding for DVS on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood is provided by the U.S. Department of Education.



Fred Rogers (left) beats away with a cast from the Off-Broadway Play Stamp for a new PBS special.

Quackin' to improve the city

NEWARK—Ten thousand rubber ducks landed in the Reflecting Pool at PSE&G in Newark recently as Connection-Newark kicked off the City's first annual "Quackening!" — A Really Ducky Event. Master of Ceremonies Joe Piscopo, local restaurateur, jazz, jazz bands and "Quackies," the official duck mascot, were all on-hand to add to the celebration.

"We are proud to begin this new tradition in Newark, an annual duck event where the community can unite for an afternoon of fun and fundraising to support the ongoing quality of life projects in this City, including the creation of The Newark Guide, and the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Newark," said Danny Gale, executive director of Connection-Newark. "This event not only helps to further develop a sense of pride in Newark, it also allows people to learn about the many wonderful restaurants and attractions this great City has to offer."

Modeled after events developed by Great American Duck Races, the official "Quackening" event in Newark, featured ten thousand adopted rubber ducks that dropped into the PSE&G pool, where a lucky few were plucked out by celebrities and community leaders. The owners of the plucked ducks won fabulous prizes including free trips on Continental.

Airlines, resort stays courtesy of Hilton, tickets to NJPAC restaurants, the 1999 Soccer World Cup, and more. In addition, a festive street fair atmosphere included live music by the Black Widow Band, Latin New Jersey All-Stars and Houston Person and Etta Jones, while local restaurants SeaB's, and the Commerce Food Court sold Spanish-Portuguese cuisine and other local dishes.

"A 'Quackening' is an innovative promotional event that connects Newarkers, visitors, local businesses and organizations, to raise funds for our City's brochure," said Newark Mayor Sharpe Jones. "As a result, Connection-Newark and the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Newark, along with our good corporate



Entertainer Joe Piscopo and friends celebrate "The Quackening" photos by Billy Jones.

neighbors and community-at-large, partnered to make this fundraising initiative a success. My hat's off to everyone involved."

"Connection-Newark is overjoyed by the partnerships which continue to grow with businesses and community groups throughout the city supporting

events such as the Quackening," said Pat Ryan, chair of Connection-Newark. "Each new initiative, and the collaborations that make them happen, help improve the quality of life in Newark. We're glad that the 'Quackening' will be a day of fun and laughter for everyone."

KNOW

The

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Know the knowledge

Did you know?

Did you know that president Clinton is the third president in the history of the country to face impeachment hearings?

NJN Public Television

PRESENTS

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- Explore topics addressed at the Summit:
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 - Faith-based initiatives
 - Health care
 - Youth participation
 - Arts and culture
- Profile empowerment initiatives underway in African-American, Hispanic, Portuguese, Asian-American and non-minority communities in New Jersey

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NJN is a proud partner of Empowerment Summit II, working together to help people build better lives and to serve as a catalyst for community building.

NEWARK

1998 FIRE PREVENTION ISSUE



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PRESENTED BY

**THE
SKANNER**

News Group Portland, Ore.

www.theskanner.com



Fighting, Preventing Fire Takes Practice

There is no telling how many fire victims would be alive today if they had practiced home fire drills. Think about it.

Do you know what to do if your house or apartment catches on fire? Where are the exits?

Where's the closest phone you can use to call 911? Do all of your family members know how to escape and meet you in a safe area?

The Skanner is once again, with the support of Philip Morris U.S.A., proud to be part of an annual effort to encourage fire safety practices in homes and businesses.

This year's theme, "Fire Drills: The Great Escape," should be embraced by all, from the youngest toddler to the oldest among us.

Of course, preventing fire is the most important thing for everyone to keep in mind. But that is not always possible, so understanding how to react in a fire situation is important.

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But that is not always possible, so understanding how to react in a fire situation is important.

react in a fire situation is important.

In this special section, you will find advice and ideas

from experts in the field of fire fighting and prevention. Take them to heart, and practice what they preach.

The National Fire Protection Association, the official sponsor of the annual Fire Prevention Week from Oct. 4-10, is encouraging families to practice regular fire drills—at least twice a year. The nonprofit's advice is just as applicable for businesses as it is for home and apartment dwellers.

For example, every home and business should have a floor plan showing exits, including all windows and doors. Practice using all of the exits, as you never know which one might be blocked by a fire.

If you are caught in a fire, remember to drop to the floor—below the level of the smoke, which rises to the

ceiling—and crawl on your hands and knees to an exit. Once outside, go to an area selected beforehand by you and your family or coworkers. The quicker all can be accounted for, the less the chance someone will try to re-enter the burning structure in what might prove to be a futile and fatal search for a family member or coworker who is not in the structure. With careful and sensible planning, neither you nor a family member nor a coworker will become the next fire casualty in your city.

— The Publisher

Be Aware of How Most Home Fires Happen

By Mona Lombard

The leading sources of home structure fires are household items used nearly every day.

Most of these fires can be avoided. Being alert enough to eliminate potential hazards must become a 24-hour-a-day habit.

This is a list of the most frequent causes of home fires leading to death or painful injuries and disfigurements lasting a lifetime. You and your family are encouraged to read and discuss these in order to eliminate the potential for preventable fires in your home.

1. Cooking: Fires from

cooking happen more often than any other household fire. Keep your stovetop clutter-free. Stepping away from the kitchen for a moment while heating grease or oil can be a fatal error. Forgetting to turn off the stove before leaving home is another major mistake. Make checking the stove and oven

each time you leave home, even if for only a few minutes, a habit. Fire also can happen if heating coils on the stovetop or in the oven are defective, cracked or broken. All cooking equipment, including microwaves and toaster ovens, should be repaired or removed immediately if signs of problems, such as torn cords with exposed wires, are detected.

2. Heating: As temperatures drop, the way you heat your living space can become a life-or-death decision. Built-in and portable space heaters only can warm a limited space. They are hot to the touch, are dangerous and include gas or electric wall heaters, portable electric heaters and fireplaces. They frequently are placed too close to people, furniture, curtains, electrical cords and wires. Lightweight space heaters can flip over and easily ignite the carpeting and nearby furniture. Use these sparingly, and place them at a safe distance from children and frail seniors who are unable to move quickly in an emergency. Improperly working gas and electric furnaces are dangerous and must be repaired or replaced immediately. Wood-burning fireplaces and chimneys require annual checkups if used frequently. Use fire-place matches, because they are long enough to allow you to stand a safe distance from the fireplace. Be a good example by safely handling matches and fire.

3. Child Fireplay: Kids require much supervision, which can be made easier if matches and flammable



Being alert enough to eliminate potential fire hazards must become a 24-hour-a-day habit.

items are stored beyond their reach. Child fireplay could be caused by a fascination with fires, or the youth might be crying out for attention and help. Unfortunately, parents might not be aware their children need help until after a fire has been set. They should seek immediate and professional assistance before their children harm themselves or others. Many fire departments offer programs to assist families.

4. Electrical: Cords and wires placed in front of heating sources and on stovetops are fire hazards usually occurring when not enough out-

lets are available. Clear your home of defective outlets, improper wiring, overloaded plugs and frayed cords, and simply unplug appliances not in use. If you must have an extended outlet, purchase a power supply strip with a built-in circuit breaker or a multiplug outlet with a circuit breaker from your local hardware store. This will prevent a fire if you accidentally overload the amount of wattage you can use safely.

Paying attention to these warnings can prevent fire injuries and can save your life and the lives of your family members.

The 1998 Fire Prevention Week Supplement is Online

For the past 10 years, *The Skanner*, a Portland- and Seattle-based weekly newspaper, has published an annual Fire Prevention and Fire Safety issue to coincide with National Fire Prevention Week.

Originally, the special insert, which features a wealth of material on emergencies, fire safety and prevention and a host of related topics, was published and distributed only in Portland, Ore. In the years that followed, a growing number of newspapers expressed interest in being featured and included.

During the past six years, *The Skanner*, with a grant from Philip Morris U.S.A., has published these special issues in cities across the country.

These articles are the views of the writers and do not reflect the opinions of The Skanner News Group or Philip Morris USA.

We are proud to bring our fire safety and prevention issue to the Internet to increase the fire and safety awareness and to make the information available nationwide. We urge everyone to spread the message of fire safety.

If you are interested in "localized" hard copies for the individual cities, they can be obtained by contacting the following newspapers:

- Portland: *The Skanner*.
- Seattle: *The Skanner*.
- Oakland: The Post.
- Los Angeles: L.A. Observer.
- Atlanta: The Atlanta Inquirer.
- Pittsburgh: Renaissance News.
- Newark: City News.
- New York: New York Daily Challenger.

If you would like to request more copies of the 1998 Fire Prevention Week Supplement, send your requests in writing to:

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e-mail: info@theskanner.com



Are You Safe, or Are You Trapped?

By James W. Stewart
Newark Fire Department

Crime is a major concern of most communities all across the country.

In urban communities, it is utmost on almost everyone's mind. An immense amount of time, energy and resources are spent on looking for solutions to combat crime.

In order to protect their loved ones and their property, some property owners have turned their dwelling places into fortresses. This has been accomplished mainly by installing security bars on windows and doors.

They are not necessarily the problem. The type of security bars is what poses the greatest threat to evacuating a building safely in case of a fire emergency.

Stationary bars mounted to the exterior wall of a building with no release mechanism on the inside can



Stationary bars mounted to the exterior wall of a building with no release mechanism on the inside can cause entrapment. When these type of bars are installed, especially on bedroom windows, they severely will limit your opportunity for escape in the event of a fire emergency.

grates or similar devices on any emergency escape windows is a violation unless they are equipped with approved release mechanisms. These must be openable from the inside without the use of a key, or special knowledge or excessive force.

cause entrapment. When these type of bars are installed, especially on bedroom windows, they severely will limit your opportunity for escape in the event of a fire emergency.

In the state of New Jersey, installing or using bars, grills,

sey Fire Prevention Code, our enforcement jurisdiction is limited in owner-occupied one- and two-family homes.

So, obviously, in this particular area, our efforts should be geared toward education rather than enforcement. During the next several months, our Fire Prevention Division will be concentrating on heightening public awareness to the dangers of immovable securi-

ty bars.

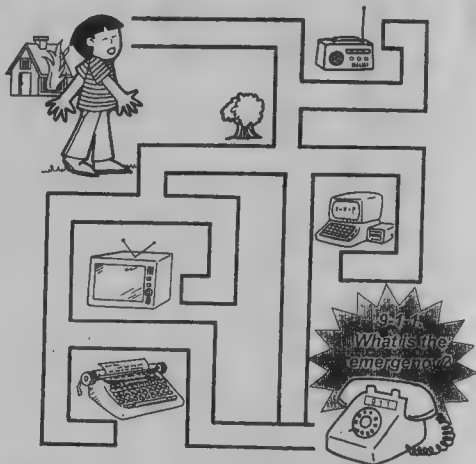
All inspectors will canvass their districts and compile a list of all dwelling places with security bars. In our stepped-up Fire Education Plan, leaflets will be distributed to all identified dwellings.

These not only will point out the dangers of using the wrong type of security bars but will denote the recommended type to use if an owner thinks having them is a necessity. We also will contact community leaders and community groups to set up meetings where members from the Fire Prevention Division will discuss and explain the possible hazards of using the wrong type of security bars.

Those used on bedroom or any emergency escape windows must have release mechanisms openable from the inside without a key. In your efforts to make your home safe from intruders, don't be trapped if a fire emergency is on the inside.

Kids' Stuff

Help Evan get to the phone to call 9-1-1.



If Your Clothes Catch On Fire...

(trace the letters below)



Stop

Drop

Roll

Fill in the 911 sticker below. Cut it out and keep it by your telephone.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone # _____





If a Fire Started in Your Home, Would You and Your Family Know How to Escape?

How would you get out of your home if a fire started?

If you have security bars on the windows in your home, could you get out in an emergency? You could if your bars had quick-release devices. These devices operate from inside, and allow the bars to be opened for emergency escape. They should be approved devices which are easily openable without the use of a key, special knowledge, or effort — in other words, everyone in your household should be able to open the window to get out. Some of the types are pictured below:

Use quick release devices on barred windows.

Identify emergency exits.

Make sure everyone can operate locked or barred doors and windows.

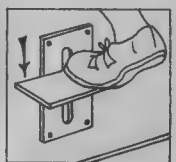
Practice Exit Drills in the Home.



turn handle



push button



press pedal

Releases vary based on the region and the manufacturer. Check with your local fire marshal for the approved devices available in your area.

Exit Drills in the Home

- Draw a simple floor plan.
- Plan two exits out of each room
- Install smoke detectors.
- Make sure doors and windows can be opened easily.
- Choose a special meeting place for all family members outside the home.
- Practice your plan with a home fire drill.



Burglar/Security Bars Can be a Fire Hazard

The inexpensive method of providing home security can be quite costly if installed improperly

By Fire Marshal Jerry Blueford
Oakland Fire Services Agency

On Oct. 14, 1995, five children lost their lives in an apartment fire in East Oakland.

The children were trapped in a bedroom with burglar bars. The windows did not have an internal fire release, and the children had no way to escape.

This tragedy began a statewide movement to retrofit burglar bars on bedroom windows. The movement now is affecting the entire nation.

For a long time, burglar bars have been one of the least expensive methods of providing home security to citizens. They began to appear throughout the city of Oakland in the mid-'70s as an alternative to more-expensive electrical and motion-activated systems.

Burglar bars, just as any other anti-theft device, might be a deterrent to criminals wanting to enter homes. Still, they will not prevent them from gaining entry if they are intent on doing so.

The California Assembly passed two significant bills relating to burglar bars. They are AB 3131 and AB 3026.

AB 3131 mandates educational material be packaged with equipment sold in the state informing consumers that they must check with their local fire and building departments for regulations on the installation of burglar

bars and that if they are installing them in bedrooms, they are required to have fire releases. AB 3026 gave local jurisdictions the authority to create ordinances and inspection programs requiring fire releases on at least one window in every bedroom in all residential occupancies, retroactively.

The Oakland City Council approved the burglar/security bar ordinance effective July 1, 1997. The inspection program began in February 1998.

Three Fire Services Agency/Fire Prevention Bureau employees schedule inspections from a database of 17,000 residential buildings with security bar installations. They determine if security bars are installed on

Five children ...
in an apartment fire
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burglar bars. The
windows did not have
an internal fire release,
and the children had
no way to escape.



Plan your fire escape!

bedroom escape windows and equipped with approved fire release devices.

A life-saving feature of the security bar ordinance is smoke detectors must be installed in conjunction with the fire releases. Alarms are required in and adjacent to bedrooms where the security bar with the fire release is installed.

Every residential building in Oakland with security bars installed on the bedroom escape windows is required to have permits. A permit fee schedule is available for existing security bar installations with fire releases approved after city inspection, for new installations and for installations performed by a city-approved contractor.

The city provides grants for retrofitting security bars to low-income homeowners who meet certain Housing and Urban Development Department requirements. The Fire Prevention Bureau may put citizens in contact with private nonprofit agencies providing grants or low-interest loans to homeowners, and a program with the Bank of Oakland provides loans to landlords or apartment owners.

The problem with burglar/security bars is not specific to Oakland. They are prevalent in middle- and low-income neighborhoods in every city throughout the United States.

Many cities have followed Oakland's lead by creating ordinances and inspection programs. Others have improved Oakland's efforts by being more creative or innovative in providing financing for retrofitting or by not assessing any permit fees, but many jurisdictions are not addressing the burglar/security bar issue at all.

Oakland's program is a huge task. City inspectors already have made 2,500 inspections and permitted 1,465 security bar installations.

Many homeowners choose to remove burglar/security bars to gain compliance. The sheer numbers of installations in the state of California and the nation reveal the potential for tragic fires to continue.

In Oakland, we are working hard to prevent another tragedy like the one in 1995. However, we need your cooperation.



Child Fireplay: A Community Problem, Solution

Intervention can't prevent the first fire but keeps kids from continuing the risky behavior

By Don Porth

Child fireplay: Some call it a phase; others simply say "boys will be boys." However, the harsh reality of child fireplay is it will take hundreds of lives, cause thousands of injuries and cost hundreds of millions of dollars in lost property this year.

The victims usually will be children, often the child who set the fire. However, the victim also might be an innocent bystander or the children who escape death only to face a lifetime of scarring from the burns they suffer.

In June 1996, an 11-year-old boy set a fire in the stairwell of an apartment building, causing the death of eight residents in an upstairs unit. March 1998 saw a mentally handicapped 12-year-old girl cause \$1.2 million in damage as a fire she set destroyed an entire apartment complex.

July of this year saw a 6-year-old boy, possibly incited by the fireworks season, take a lighter and ignite simple newspaper, which trapped him in the family's doghouse. He escaped with his life, but deep tissue burns over 40 percent of his body forever will remind him of the mistake he made that day.

Tragic stories indeed, but stories all too often unfolding in communities across North America. One thing the events share is the presence of "effective" youth firesetting

intervention programs in the communities where these children live.

They present an extreme risk to themselves, their families and their community. To avoid the deadly and destructive behavior described in these stories, effective intervention must come into play as soon as possible after the discovery of the firesetting behavior.

And although many cities and towns across North America already have intervention programs, some do not. If your community does not have this important service, you should be asking the question, "How can we get one in our city?"

Most intervention programs are found in fire departments. This is a fairly new role for them, and struggling to find staff and know-how is not uncommon.

Partnerships with community agencies such as mental health and child welfare are also crucial. Although many take on this challenge, others are unable to get the support to develop this way of preventing fires.

You might be asking how these tragic stories could happen if a youth firesetting intervention program was available. The answer is simple: Intervention programs cannot prevent that all-important first fire from being set, but they keep children from continuing to set fires.

Keeping children safe and setting a proper example are the responsibility of those caring for them. If you are the caregiver of a child, ask yourself the following questions to see how well you have provided for fire safety:

- Are matches/lighters kept in a safe place, high and out of reach?
- Do you use, store and generally treat matches/lighters like a danger-

Keep Matches and Lighters Out of the Hands of Children



- Use child-resistant lighters.

- Keep all lighters and matches up high, out of reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.

- A lighter is not a toy. Never use a lighter as a source of amusement for children.

- Teach young children to tell a grown-up when they find matches and lighters.

- Never leave young children unattended, even for short periods of time.

ous tool?

- When the children under your care see you use matches/lighters, are they seeing you treat it with respect and caution?

- Because children in your care will do as you do, not as you say, will they understand fire safety when they see you use candles, the barbecue, fireworks or the fireplace/campfire?

- Have you told the children under your care how you expect them to treat matches/lighters?

- Have you told the children under your care what to do if they find matches/lighters or see a friend playing with these items?

If you can answer "yes" to all of these questions, then you are unlikely to have a problem with child firesetting. Most behavior happens because of unclear rules and expectations along with a natu-

ral curiosity about fire — something we all share.

If you answered "no" to any of these, consider what can be done to make your children safer, and remember their firesetting behavior sometimes is caused by a crisis or problem in their life or their family. An effective intervention program can help you understand which reason might be causing the behavior.

If help is not available in your community, it can be found elsewhere in the country. Let your fire agency know how important this service is to you and your neighborhood.

Citizens' voices speak much louder than those of a fire department member. Help take responsibility for making your community, and your children, safer.

Although a how-to manual is not

available for communities needing help in developing a program to intervene in child firesetting, communities can replicate a few model programs around the country.

For example, SOS FIRES: Youth Intervention Programs is dedicated to helping communities prevent firesetting. The nonprofit organization also manages a Web page for professional peers who need information about firesetting behavior at www.sosfires.com, the only dynamic site dedicated specifically to this issue.

SOS FIRES also provides workshops and other consulting services. The organization is supported by private donations, corporate partnerships and grant opportunities while being managed by an all-volunteer staff.

Don Porth is president of SOS FIRES: Youth Intervention Programs.

Preschoolers Are Learning Fire-Prevention Skills

A practical, pilot-tested project teaches safety awareness to the most vulnerable age group

By Mona Lombard

Child care providers now have a tool to teach fire-prevention skills to the age group most vulnerable to fires. Preschoolers in the United States have a fire death rate more than twice the national average.

Children playing with matches or cigarette lighters account for one-third of fire-related deaths for children 1½ to 4 years old. They also are less likely to know what to do in a fire and less able to escape without assistance.

A grant from the Continental Corporation Foundation to the Learn Not to Burn Foundation led to the development of a special program dedicated to teaching fire prevention to preschoolers. The program is a product of the National Fire Protection Association, which created

Learn Not to Burn.

The practical, pilot-tested and evaluated project has a curriculum to teach fire safety awareness and skills to children 3 to 5 years old

increased by 37 percent.

Sharon Gamache, the National Fire Protection Association's Center for High Risk Outreach executive director, is excited about the

Children playing with matches or cigarette lighters account for one-third of fire-related deaths for children 1½ to 4 years old. They also are less likely to know what to do in a fire and less able to escape without assistance.

who are enrolled in child care centers. A pre-test and post-test, conducted in cooperation with the National Association of Insurance Women, indicated the children's knowledge of the subject had

potential effect of the program. "The grant has given us the funds to create a complete program in English and in Spanish.

"We have developed a wonderful teachers guide and an accompan-

ing cassette tape with music that the kids will love. The tapes reinforce the lessons."

The guide identifies eight key fire safety behaviors — "Stay Away From Hot Things That Hurt," "Tell a Grown-up When You Find Matches and Lighters," "Stop, Drop and Roll," "Cool a Burn," "Crawl Low Under Smoke," "Know the Sound of a Smoke Detector," "Practice an Escape Plan" and "Recognize the Fire Fighter as a Helper" — and has illustrations for posters, coloring or other activities. It also contains the lyrics in English or Spanish to songs on the cassettes.

Gamache, an established home fire safety expert, said this project allowed her to also draw upon her skills as a music major in college.

"With a grant from First Alert, I was able to hire musicians and cre-

ate new music."

Jim Post wrote and sang the 10 songs on the English tape. The original songs for the Spanish cassette were written by Trian Amador, music director of the Cambridge, Mass.-based folk group Sol y Canto.

The group of musicians represents a variety of Latino communities. Rosi Amador, the lead singer and group leader, is from Puerto Rico, and other group members are from New Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina, Panama, Colombia and the Dominican Republic.

Some fire departments already are distributing the manuals to preschool centers in their areas. For information, write to Sharon Gamache, Center for High Risk Outreach, National Fire Protection Association, P.O. Box 9101, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.



They Do Much More Than Fight Fires

Firefighters also rescue trapped people and come to the aid of pets in unusual situations

By Mona Lombard

When we see firefighters on trucks whizzing past us with sirens blasting, we wonder, "Where is the fire?" More than half of those times, they are not on their way to put out a fire.

In fact, 60 percent to 75 percent of the calls directed to fire stations are requests for emergency medical assistance. It could be for someone who is having chest pains

or a heart attack, swallowed poison, stopped breathing or passed out.

Who gets the 911 calls when food is trapped in someone's throat and the person can't get air? Or when a child has fallen into a swimming pool or a deep pit?

Or when an injured person is trapped in an auto accident? Those calls go to the nearest available firefighting unit.

Firefighters and paramedics arrive with stretchers, oxygen masks, other medical supplies

and the rescue equipment we expect them to have. In addition to emergency services, firefighters also remove fallen phone lines, rescue people who are trapped in elevators and, yes, come to the aid of pets in unusual situations.

Last year, the country experienced numerous disasters after severe heat waves, tornadoes, hurricanes and floods, but firefighters didn't limit their transportation to trucks. We watched and cheered as firefighters on

television arrived by boat to rescue people whose homes and cars were swept away by

tions, in Red Cross operations and even to bomb squads, they are the only

calls actually are related to fire and smoke.

The primary mission for each firefighter is to protect lives and property from injury or destruction; therefore, the top priority for departments is to prevent fires and accidents from happening in the first place. This is why fire departments conduct public education programs to teach individuals and families basic prevention practices and other practical safety tips.

Only 10 percent to 20 percent of the department's emergency calls actually are related to fire and smoke.

floods and severe winds.

Although firefighters provide backup emergency medical assistance in police situa-

ones trained and equipped to put out fires. However, only 10 percent to 20 percent of the department's emergency

Stay Warm and Safe From Fires

Always follow these basic rules on those early autumn days

Electric or gas space heaters on wheels might seem to be just the right solution to take the chill out of the room on those early autumn days. In some homes and apartments, however, these portable or built-in space heaters are the only source of heat throughout the long winter.

On cold days, people might sit, stand or sleep close to the heaters, which are only able to warm a limited space. This is extremely dangerous, because

away from the high-traffic areas in the room and out of reach of small children.

- Turn heaters off, and unplug them when you leave the room unattended. These tips will keep your heating bills lower and will protect you and your loved ones from fire.

Older homes with fireplaces are becoming more popular, and buyers are eager to use them. In some homes, the fireplaces might not have been used for many years, or partially burned

Have Working Smoke Detectors



- Place a smoke detector outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.

- Replace batteries at least once a year or when you hear the detector chirp, warning you the battery is run down.

- Test your detector once a month by pushing the test button to make sure you are protected.

- Have a family escape plan and have everyone in your household practice it.

Keep Kitchen Heat Confined to Stove

By Mona Lombard

The kitchen is probably the most-used and favorite room in every house and apartment. Large or small, it is where family and friends gather for food and conversation.

Unfortunately, the kitchen is also where most fires start. Carelessness in using heat to cook food is the No. 1 cause of all residential fires across the country and is the leading cause of all fire injuries.

Fortunately, by looking closely at your cooking area today, you can do much to prevent fire in your kitchen. Before you turn on the stove, electric pots and toaster ovens, here's what you need to check out:

- Make sure the cooking area is clear of electric cords, paper, cloth and plastic items, which can ignite when



you turn on the stove and cooking appliances.

- Clean off any spilled food from the burners and oven.

- Never hang pot holders, dishtowels or decorative items near the stove top.

- Wear clothing with short or close-fitting sleeves that cannot come in contact with electric burners or gas flames.

Once you have turned on the stove, be aware of everything you are doing. Never leave the kitchen if you are heating grease or

Carelessness in using heat to cook food is the No. 1 cause of all fires across the country and is the leading cause of all fire injuries.

oil, because they are self-igniting and can burst into flames that can leap to nearby objects.

If this happens, dial 911 immediately. Never move a pan that is on fire.

The quickest way to put out grease or oil fires is to smother the flames with a pot cover, if it is safe. Never use water on a grease fire, because it will burn more vigorously.

If you are cooking food, stay in the kitchen at all times. A good idea is to set a

timer for slow-cooking foods so you will not forget to check the pots regularly.

If small children are in the house, use the back burners on your stove as much as possible, and remember to turn the handles so they are out of reach.

By making these fire prevention practices a habit for everyone in your household, you greatly can reduce the possibility you and your loved ones will suffer the pain and devastation of this type of fire.

On cold days, people might sit, stand or sleep close to the heaters. ... This is extremely dangerous.

clothing, bedding and other items quickly can catch fire.

In addition, space heaters are hot to the touch and can ignite quickly if they tip over. If you do not have centralized heating where you live, here are some basic rules to follow:

- Dress warmly instead of turning up the heat to its highest temperature.

- Wear wool sweaters and socks.

- Keep your heating equipment dust-free.

- Keep all items at least three feet from the heater. This includes newspapers and electric cords.

- Place portable heaters

residue might have built up inside the chimney area.

The first step to take to enjoy your hearth all through the season is to have the fireplace and chimney professionally cleaned each year. Make certain the damper is open before lighting the fire.

Use dry wood and starter logs rather than paper, which gets too hot and burns too fast, sending out airborne sparks. Use long fireplace matches.

Always use a screen, and never leave a lit fireplace unattended. Close the damper several hours after the fire has burned out.



Know Your Neighbors to Prevent Fires

By Mona Lombard

If you live in a condominium or an apartment, you and your immediate neighbors share a special responsibility for the lives and well-being of all who live within the same walls, rooftops and building structure. A fire can spread quickly and tear down all the walls separating residents.

Mutual dependence on each other's individual fire prevention habits can become a strength when residents are committed to eliminating potential hazards. You are only as safe as your neighbors are.

Become involved in safeguarding yourself and your property from fire and injury. If no one else has been assigned, take the lead and call a meeting to discuss the group and individual responsibility to keep the building safe.

Does the building have smoke detectors in all hallways, and are the batteries fresh? Are hallways and stairwells clear?

Are exits well-marked? Does emergency lighting work?

How about the sprinklers? Are they connected?

Are heating and cooling systems and fireplace chimneys checked every year? Is the storage area clear of gasoline and other flammable liquids?

Volunteer, encourage others to attend a fire prevention class, then teach the other



A fire can spread quickly through condominiums and apartments. Getting to know who lives next to you is perhaps the wisest life and property insurance decision you can make.

residents what you have learned. Encourage individuals to be emergency monitors for each floor.

You are encouraged to take your plan to the nearest fire station. Go over the plan and get some tips, if needed.

Residents who have disabilities must make their limitations known to those who are designing the evacuation plan. Letting your local fire station personnel know of residents who require special attention is wise.

Schedule a fire drill, and actively urge all residents to attend, including children. This is where everyone can learn how to use the building's common equipment, such as fire hoses and extinguishers.

Inside your unit is where you have the most fire prevention control. Unfortunately, home is where people are most careless and where most fires start.

Careless handling of lighted tobacco is the leading

cause of deaths from fire. And smoking is the leading cause of apartment fires.

Most smoking fires start in the living room, den or lounge, where lit cigarettes accidentally are dropped in upholstered furniture. Smokers must use ashtrays at all times.

Make sure they are noncombustible, large, deep and heavy so they will not tip over. Leaving lit cigarettes on countertops, tables or even dishes not designed to hold them is an extremely dangerous habit.

Falling asleep while holding a lit cigarette is another serious and potentially fatal mistake. Never smoke in bed. Dispose of ashes in the toilet, never in a wastebasket. Matches and cigarette lighters go hand in hand with cigarettes.

Remember, children watch what you do, not what you say. Be a good example of the right thing to do.

Although knowing your neighbors if you live in a multiunit building has defi-

nite fire safety advantages, residents can benefit in other ways. You have the flexibility to be alone or communicate with others.

The best way to meet your neighbors is to attend homeowners or tenants association meetings and events. Get on a committee of interest to you: social events; maintenance and landscaping; crime and fire safety; nominating; and advisory board.

You also might develop friendships with the people you are getting to know through your common interest: your home. Imagine being able to exchange phone numbers and door keys with your neighbor, who can come to your aid in the event of an emergency?

What if you can take care of each other's plants, pets or newspapers during vacation periods? How about a carpool to go grocery shopping or to the mall?

Or group walks? Holiday gatherings?

Getting to know who lives next to you, whether they are apartment renters or owners of condominiums or houses, is perhaps the wisest life and property insurance decision you can make. Community safety experts have proved the incidence of crime and preventable fires greatly decreases in neighborhoods and buildings where everyone knows each other.

So make a point to meet one of your neighbors today.

Take a Hazardous Materials Home Tour

By Portland Bureau of Fire, Rescue & Emergency Services

Many hazardous materials could be dangerous if you have a fire or could cause a fire if they are stored or used improperly. Protect yourself and your family by becoming familiar with hazardous materials in your home.

Begin your tour in the bedroom. Be careful if you have any aerosol cans. They can explode if exposed to high heat. Never dispose of them in

trash to be burned.

Nail polish and nail-polish remover — as well as cotton balls and tissue used to apply them — burn easily if exposed to flame or high heat. The fumes given off by mothballs are flammable, and their containers should be sealed tightly.

In the bathroom, be aware drain-cleaning fluids and powders are extremely caustic and can cause severe burns on contact with the skin. Follow the instructions for use print-

ed on the labels of these products.

In the kitchen, cleaning products should be stored and used with care. Floor and furniture polishes, spot removers and oven cleaners can ignite if exposed to high heat or flame.

Next, check the basement, workshop or hobby areas. They are likely to contain many flammable liquids such as turpentine, mineral spirits and other solvents; oil-based paint, stains and varnishes; and camping

stove fuels and charcoal lighter fluid.

Your basement is also likely to contain a furnace and hot water heater, sources of heat and flame that could ignite vapors from such flammable liquids. Storing all such liquids outside your home, in the garage or in a shed is best.

Always store these liquids in approved, labeled safety containers with tight-fitting lids. Never store flammable liquids in glass jars, which can break easily.

Treat gasoline with extreme caution, because the vapors can be ignited by even a tiny spark.

Refuel gasoline-powered machines in the open, well away from buildings and foliage. Never refuel hot machinery.

The heat can produce explosive gasoline fumes. Never use gasoline as a substitute for charcoal lighter or cleaning solution.

The results can be lethal. Remember, your safety is your responsibility.

What if You Can't Hear the Smoke Detector?

In a world of inventions depending on the ability to hear, what kind of early fire warning system is available for those whose hearing is impaired? The piercing sound let out by smoke detectors, which are by far the most effective device, cannot be

ignored — if you can hear it.

But for those who cannot hear, a different type of early alert smoke detection system activates vibrators or strobe lights.

These can be placed in various locations throughout the home to warn the occupants

to take immediate action.

Although the special detection system is a major relief, it is not a substitute for developing a keen sense of fire prevention awareness. More than 16 million hearing-impaired people live in the United States.

Of these, almost 2.2 million are deaf. To meet this special-needs group, districts across the country are adding fire prevention programs relying more heavily on actual demonstration.

The Rev. Joseph A. Mulcrone, Chicago Catholic

Office of the Deaf director, points out hearing-impaired people "learn best by seeing things." He encourages fire prevention experts to use plenty of pictures in their presentations along with demonstrations and pantomime.

"Reaching the hard of hear-

ing offers a different challenge," Mulcrone said. He said although deaf people know their situation, those who are in the process of losing their hearing tend to be less aware or less willing to take advantage of the products and services available to them.



Portland Fire & Rescue Starts a New Era

For the past 115 years, Portland Fire & Rescue has become well-known for its firefighting skills and protective presence in the community. But 1998 begins a new era of service to the citizens of Portland: the era of injury prevention.

Most people do not realize that every 100 times they see a fire engine moving through the streets of Portland with emergency lights and siren, seven of those 100 trips are for a response to a fire of some kind. However, 70 of those 100 trips will be a response to a medical emergency.

Portland Fire & Rescue's role has changed dramatically, particularly in the past two decades. A frequently asked question is, "Why does a fire engine show up when all I needed was an ambulance?"

The answer is quite simple: Every Portland Fire & Rescue fire medic is a combination firefighter and emergency medical technician. In

fact, Portland Fire & Rescue employs the largest body of EMTs in the state of Oregon.

With 26 fire stations strategically located around the city, the fire bureau is best equipped to get to an injured or ill citizen quickly, as quickly as they can for a fire. Their job is to stabilize the injury or illness until an ambulance arrives to transport the citizen to a hospital, if necessary.

Of course, as with fires, preventing the many injuries people suffer is best so they do not have to go through the pain and suffering of an injury. Enter Risk Watch.

The new prevention curriculum was developed to teach children how to avoid life-threatening injuries. These children help teach their parents, and they grow up to be safe adults in the community, but how does this work?

Risk Watch was developed through a cooperative effort by the National Fire Protection Association,

the American Red Cross and the National Safekids Coalition. They researched the most common ways children suffer traumatic injury:

- Motor vehicle injuries.
- Fires and burn injuries.
- Poisoning.
- Falls.
- Firearms injuries.
- Choking, suffocation and strangulation.
- Bicycle and pedestrian injuries.
- Water injuries and drownings.

Realizing the most effective way to reach kids is through school, Risk Watch was developed into a classroom curriculum to be delivered by teachers in the community. A great deal of research led to the final product now ready for distribution.

Like many new ideas, getting people involved in the beginning always is difficult. To address this, the National Fire Protection Association has chosen six national pilot test sites to get the program started.

Portland topped that list of cities. The others are Palm Beach County, Fla.; Plano, Texas; Champaign, Ill.; Philadelphia; and Brockville, Ontario. With these enthusiastic participants, showing positive results and lives saved should not take long.

The Risk Watch curriculum is composed of lesson plans for the classroom teacher. These are designed for different age groups from preschool through eighth grade.

Each level of Risk Watch has age-appropriate lessons addressing each of the eight injury areas. The classroom teachers now have an excellent tool to help make their students safer.

Common questions asked at this point are: "Aren't groups already out in the classroom teaching things like fire safety? Why is this needed?"

Portland Fire & Rescue has had a high-profile presence in the classroom for the past two decades. However, times have changed, as

have the demands on the classroom teachers.

Risk Watch helps them coordinate their safety instruction to children. Also, many groups are wanting to have a piece of a school's time to get into the classroom or do an assembly.

All of these important and well-meaning groups ultimately compete with one another for the limited time the school has to give. In the end, someone loses.

Ultimately, it is the child. Risk Watch helps all of the safety educators coordinate their efforts to make better use of their time and the available time the schools have to give.

The reason Portland Fire & Rescue responds to 30 percent fewer fires now than 10 years ago is because of prevention. Could these same efforts reduce the number of injuries suffered by the children of Portland?

Now is a great opportunity to find out. And Risk Watch is the perfect tool to lead the effort.

\$3,000 Grant Fights Juvenile Fire Setting

The Federal Emergency Management Agency responds nationally, children set more than 250,000 fires each year, causing more than 500 deaths and about \$1 billion in property damage.

"Arson is a national problem that can only be solved

locally," FEMA Director James Lee Witt said. But small communities do not always have the experience or resources to solve the problem.

Fortunately, Factory Mutual has established its Arson Fund Grant Program. Since 1976, the insurance company

has sought out and provided funding for efforts designed to reduce arson. This year, the Pacific Northwest nonprofit SOS FIRES: Youth Intervention Programs has been selected to receive \$3,000 to enhance its ability to provide valuable

instruction in the development and maintenance of juvenile fire-setting and arson prevention programs. Instructors travel to communities requesting assistance to provide the much-needed knowledge gained by the team, which works professionally in Portland and King County, Wash.

Both programs are at the forefront of the youth fire-setting problem in North America. Since beginning these trainings two years ago, more than 15 workshops/classes have been provided, training hundreds of professionals.

When children set fires, they often become the victim of their own actions. Find out what your community has to offer, and support those efforts, because a child's life might depend on it.

"Arson is a national problem that can only be solved locally."

— James Lee Witt
FEMA director

locally," FEMA Director James Lee Witt said. But small communities do not always have the experience or resources to solve the problem.

Fortunately, Factory Mutual has established its Arson Fund Grant Program. Since 1976, the insurance company

able training to fire service, mental health, juvenile justice and medical professionals in Oregon, Washington and Alaska and across North America. The check was awarded July 30 at the King County Fire District No. 40 station in Renton, Wash.

These training sessions



John King of Factory Mutual Insurance awards a \$3,000 check to Don Porth, president of SOS FIRES: Youth Intervention Programs, on July 30 at the King County Fire District No. 40 station in Renton, Wash.

Saving Your Valuables and Seeing Them, Too, is Easy

By Mona Lombard

It seems impossible to do, but there is a way to enjoy and see your valuables without suffering their complete loss in the event of a fire. If you had time to take only one possession out of your home in an emergency, what would it be?

The overwhelming first choice across the country are the photo-

graph albums. Here's how you can preserve your favorite photos while seeing them, too:

1. Order two sets of each print, or make copies of your favorites from the negatives. Always label photos and negatives with names and dates.
2. Give copies of your favorite photos to relatives and friends for their albums, especially to someone who is also in the picture. Be logi-

cal in your selection so you will recall who has your photos if you need a replacement.

3. Videotape your photos, recording names and dates. Give a copy to relatives or friends.

Documents are near the top of the most-wanted list, also. Make duplicates, and store all originals together, perhaps with your photos or in a home vault.

If they involve other persons, give duplicates to them. Home-based business owners should store important computer-generated documents on labeled floppy discs for safekeeping.

Keep precious jewelry in a fire-proof home safety vault. However, "fire-proof" means the contents are safe for a limited amount of time and only up to a limited

degree of temperature.

A bank vault might be needed. Record documents, jewelry, furniture, antiques and paintings on videotape for insurance purposes, and store the documentation away from home.

Most importantly, create irreplaceable memories by using, sharing and enjoying all of your precious possessions now.